

First Published 10.30am
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Falklands

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No 61,215

Dock peace as board yields

A national strike by 18,000 dockers, set to start on Monday, may be averted. The National Dock Labour Board has withdrawn planned reforms in the dockers' employment system to which the Transport and General Workers' Union had objected.

De Lorean cars may be saved

The De Lorean sports car plant in West Belfast may be saved. Receivers said yesterday that proposals received from Mr John De Lorean made a basis for refinancing the company, which could lead to an agreement. Page 21

Concert night for sale

The London Philharmonic Orchestra is looking for 10 firms to sponsor it for £30,000 each. In return they will be able to "buy" a concert night at the Festival Hall, in London, and receive substantial publicity. Page 6

Record rise in farm prices

EEC farm ministers have all but agreed a record increase in earnings for the Community's eight million farmers. Standing in the way of a final settlement is the question of how much Britain should pay into the Budget. Page 10

Brezhnev back

President Brezhnev reappeared in public yesterday after an absence of 27 days. Looking reasonably fit and showing no obvious signs of fatigue, he took part in a televised Kremlin ceremony commemorating Lenin's birth. Page 7

Law change call

Lord Gardiner, the former Lord Chancellor, and Sir David Napley, former president of the Law Society, said that they favoured reform of the appeals procedure to cope with cases of apparent miscarriage of justice. Page 3

Villa in trouble

Aston Villa's success in reaching the European Cup final may be marred if UEFA penalize the club for the violence of some British supporters in Brussels on Wednesday night. Page 27

School quangos

The Government has decided to abolish the Schools Council for Curriculum and Examinations and replace it by two quangos to advise on examinations and curriculum development. Page 2

Preview

Cycling can be economical commuting, freewheeling recreation, or jogging without the jarring. Today's Preview, the 16-page entertainment guide published each Friday with The Times, tells you how to get started.

Tomorrow's Times

Tony Emerson, our special correspondent in Buenos Aires who revealed the miscalculations over the Falklands made by the General Galtieri's junta, explains tomorrow what the British subjects living in Argentina feel about the crisis.

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THE TIMES

FRIDAY APRIL 23 1982

Price twenty pence

Task force admiral prepares air blockade of islands

As ships of the British task force moved into Falklands waters its commander, Rear-Admiral John Woodward spoke of his plan to impose an air blockade of the islands to match the 200-mile sea warzone. Mrs Thatcher after the second Cabinet meeting this week, again declined to rule out the use of force; the Foreign Secretary, in Washington to discuss Britain's proposals for a peaceful settlement, gave warning that "real obstacles" remained.

Defence stations alert for fleet

The prospect of an air exclusion zone being established over the Falkland Islands by the rapidly approaching British task force, dominated military debate over the crisis yesterday after an interview given by Rear-Admiral John Woodward, the battle group's commander.

Admiral Woodward's statement to the Press Association that he planned to complement the present maritime exclusion zone with an air blockade — sealing off Argentine forces on the islands from supplies and reinforcements — was not immediately confirmed by the Ministry of Defence. As the task force prepared for "defence stations", the high state of readiness to meet all contingencies in Falklands waters, a spokesman in London said that he was asking for a transcript of the interview.

But if Admiral Woodward has prepared his ministry he was only confirming what most armchair strategists have been speculating on for the last two weeks — that an air exclusion zone would be the next step, or one of the next steps — in Britain's attempt to regain the islands. How effective such a blockade could be at present is another matter, given that in the air Britain lacks the obvious superiority that it has at sea.

The Atlantic Conveyor container ship with a cargo of additional Sea Harriers for the task force is due to leave for the South Atlantic from Devonport today, while still more RAF G3 Harriers will go out later after the crews have had more training. Together, these will nearly double the Harrier strength with the task force to around 40.

Chinook helicopters recently bought for the RAF from Boeing, are also to be ferried to the area to provide a heavy lifting capacity for troops and their equipment, the ministry disclosed yesterday. But it will take the container vessel at least two weeks to join the other ships so any air exclusion zone established within the next few days will have to be patrolled by the 20 or so Sea Harriers already there.

The Sea Harrier is a highly manoeuvrable fighter, equipped with radar to enable it to operate through bad weather and the Sidewinder

Pym addresses private Senate committee

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 22
Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, arrived here today to discuss with the Reagan Administration new British proposals for settling the Falkland Islands crisis.

On arrival Mr Pym said he would do everything he could to find a peaceful solution, but gave warning that "there are real difficulties and real obstacles".

British sources here said the gap between the British and Argentine positions

Benn urges stand against war

Mr Wedgwood Benn widened further the rift between himself and the Labour leadership over the Falklands crisis last night when he urged all who opposed war with Argentina to speak out clearly against it.

Mr Benn, speaking in Bristol, said that the "poison of nationalism and militarism" which had already been released in Britain would go on spreading, and added: "The time to mobilize against this is now, before the first shots are fired."

The Cabinet, after obtaining the support of the Security Council, had turned its back on the United Nations, and Britain would be isolated in the world community for making war instead of going through the United Nations, Mr Benn said.

Mr Healey, who it was learnt last night is to meet Mr Alexander Haig during his visit to Washington this weekend, said yesterday that Mr Benn had got it wrong, explaining that Britain had the right of self-defence



A car bomb wrecked the Paris offices of a Lebanese newspaper yesterday, killing a woman and injuring 63. (Report, back page.)

Israeli threat to strike again if Palestinians retaliate

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, April 22

A new American diplomatic initiative designed to preserve the threatened ceasefire along Israel's northern border got under way today when Mr Walter Stoeness, deputy Secretary of State, met Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister.

The 60-minute meeting had originally been planned to discuss the remaining differences between Israel and Egypt over the new international border due to come into effect when the Sinai is returned on Sunday. But the subject was switched to the aftermath of yesterday's air raids into Lebanon.

The fact that the United States was not informed in advance about the bombings, which were carried out with aircraft supplied by the United States — and the timing of the attack have caused considerable anger and embarrassment among American officials.

It is understood that Mr

Weeping soldiers clear Yamit

From Christopher Walker, Yamit, April 22

The closing stages of the withdrawal operation to clear the Sinai of Jewish militants protesting against its impending transfer to Egypt were marked today by some of the most violent clashes yet seen between Israeli soldiers and Jewish civilians.

The violence erupted when helmeted troops using foam and sea water cannon, grappling irons, scaling ladders, and giant cages suspended from cranes moved in to remove some 300 protesters — mostly religious students — from the rooftops of buildings in the main urban settlement of Yamit.

The squatters fought back with burning tyres, fistfuls of sand, poles, bottles and rocks. Those activists who resisted removal were wrestled to the ground by unarmed soldiers and their hands tied with cord. Many were carried away in the cages.

Although there were no serious casualties during the day, the eviction was the cause of frequent emotional scenes, with some of the men and women soldiers going about their task with tears streaming down their faces. A senior general on the spot said that none of the soldiers had asked to be relieved of their duty. "They have been crying and doing their job," he explained.

The general claimed that the operation had been a success and praised the great restraint shown by the 20,000 Israeli troops involved in carrying it out. From the outset, the have had to put up with continual abuse and threats — by the protesters — who included many children and pregnant women.

Today a public address

Continued on back page, col 4

Forecast of better times to come

By David Blake, Economics Editor

The world's economies will start to pick up this summer and better times are likely next year, according to new forecasts from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

Growth, especially in the United States and West Germany, is expected to rise for the next 18 months and inflation is expected to fall. Britain will share in the world boom, but the OECD forecasts only a slow recovery which it says will falter by the middle of next year.

The confidential forecasts, which are still provisional, will be discussed by top economic officials from the OECD countries at a meeting in Paris next week. They will give a brighter than expected background to the meeting of OECD ministers scheduled for next month and the world economic summit set for Versailles in France in early June.

The big question mark hanging over the forecasts is whether high interest rates in the United States will block the recovery. The OECD hopes that a package can be worked out in Washington to allow lower interest rates. The forecast says that after falling sharply in the first half of this year, the United States' output should rise at an annual rate of 2.1 per cent in the second half of this year, 2.5 per cent in the first half of 1983, and 3.7 per cent on the second half of next year.

Britain's recovery is expected to be gentler, with 1.3 per cent a year growth in the second half of next year falling away to 1.3 per cent annual growth in the second half. This may not be enough to reduce unemployment. West Germany's output is expected to rise by 3.3 per cent next year, (0.9 per cent in 1982) and the world as a whole will grow by about 2.8 per cent next year compared with only 0.3 per cent this year.

Next year inflation is expected to fall in many countries — down from 9.8 per cent this year to 7.9 per cent in Britain, to 6.2 per cent in the United States and only 3 per cent in West Germany.

Britain is expected to go on running a big payments surplus, set at \$6,200m (£3,502m) next year after \$5,090m (£4,512m) this year.

The price for the biggest surplus goes to Japan, which is expected to earn a \$2,000m surplus in 1983, but West Germany is also expected to be in heavy surplus at \$11,000m next year. The United States will be in balance.

Arafat plea, page 7

Leading article, page 15

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP



We come from both world wars. We come from Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus... and from Ulster. Now, disabled, we must look to you for help. Please help by helping our Association. BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity. Help the disabled by helping BLESMA. We promise you that not one penny of your donation will be wasted.

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BRITISH LIMBLESS
EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Edinburgh BBC centre to go ahead

The BBC is to go ahead with plans for a new broadcasting centre in Edinburgh, which will be built on a site in the city centre. The centre will cost between £8m and £10m and will be built on a site in the city centre. The BBC is to go ahead with plans for a new broadcasting centre in Edinburgh, which will be built on a site in the city centre. The centre will cost between £8m and £10m and will be built on a site in the city centre.

Pensioner faces damage charge

A pensioner aged 71 was among 29 people who were remanded on bail until May 25 by magistrates at Chelmsford, Essex, yesterday, accused of conspiracy to cause damage at an animal research centre. Miss Joan Lester, a member of the Communist Party, was charged with 11 other women and 17 men aged between 17 and 59.

Search for crash victims fails

A search by Sea King and Wessex helicopters and the assault ship *Endurance*, failed yesterday to find any survivors of a Cessna 172 aircraft which crashed into the sea between the Isle of Wight and the Dorset coast on Wednesday.

Pipe smoker dies after fire

A man who was badly burnt 11 days ago after dozing in his locked car while smoking his pipe has died in hospital in Sheffield. Mr Malcolm Pearce, aged 45, a butcher, of Herbert Street, Kimberworth, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, suffered severe burns when the car burst into flames in the car park of a public house at Misterton, near Doncaster.

Andersson is beaten

Lajos Portisch, the Hungarian Grand Master, increased his hold on the lead in the Phillips and Drew Kings Tournament at County Hall, London, yesterday (Harry Golombek writes).

He beat Ulf Andersson in the seventh round. Ulf was Andersson's first loss in the tournament. Anatole Karpov, the world champion, adjourned his game against Timman in a winning position.

Labour puts its heart into sexual equality

By Anthony Levins, Political Correspondent

A Labour plan to create sex equality units in every Government department is being considered for inclusion in the 200-page party manifesto, the so-called rolling manifesto, which is to be put to this year's conference in Blackpool.

Staff at party headquarters in London are drawing together documentation for this overall policy document, which is to be ratified by a special meeting of the national executive committee on May 19.

A paper on women's rights drafted for the executive's home policy committee suggests that a Labour government will include a senior woman minister, of Cabinet rank, who will coordinate a campaign against sexual discrimination.

It says: "She will receive backing from the creation of specialised sex equality units in all the government departments. These units will act as the focal point within the departments for consideration of matters related to sexual inequality."

Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, last year indicated a move in that direction when he appointed Miss Joan Lester, a member of the Communist Party, as frontbench spokeswoman on women's rights and welfare.

The policy paper says: "Our aim is to create a very different society, in which women are no longer oppressed as members of a socially inferior gender and a much more radical and equitable citizenship is achieved for men, women and children."

The document advocates a code of practice to control sexism in the media and in advertising; more child-care facilities; a review of divorce and maintenance; a programme to challenge job discrimination; and an overall offensive against pay discrimination, which would include the principle of pay comparability for women.

It states: "Women play many roles, but the ones assigned to them by society are narrow stereotypes. They are regarded as wives and mothers, exploited as sex objects or viewed with suspicion, as temptresses, but rarely esteemed for their true worth. Those that are regarded as 'successful' are dismissed as exceptions."

The final element of the campaign would be an offensive against low pay and the establishment of a principle of pay comparability, as enshrined in amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act; barring direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of family status, shifting the burden of proof in discrimination cases from the complainant to the alleged discriminator; and repealing the small firms exemption.

The paper also states that the assumption of female dependency must be eradicated from the welfare state. The new Labour government will, therefore, outlaw discrimination against women in all spheres, including the tax and social security system.

This same principle of equality would also apply to the welfare state. In the case of breakdown, the real issue should be the maintenance of children, not spouses. Women should be encouraged to be independent.

More than half the population were women, and yet they earned less than three-quarters of the average man's wage, and because most of them were employed in the service sector, many part-time, they had been hit hardest by Government cuts in spending. "The number of women registered as unemployed has more than doubled since the Tories came to power."

Women had been designated as unpaid domestic labourers, barred from active trade union involvement, forced into economic dependency on men, and deprived of the opportunity to exploit their full potential.

An expansion of child-care would be necessary, as well as a reorganization of paid employment, to free women from looking after young children; barring them from equality of opportunity.

Positive action would help women to train and apply for better paid, more skilled employment. "The new Labour government will ensure that the Civil Service and government contractors implement positive action programmes, and will also require local authorities, employers, training and educational bodies to follow our lead."

British Rail yesterday announced its intention to close two workshops, at Horwicks and Shildon, in the north, under plans to make 5,000 engineering employees redundant over the next year.

The management asked the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) to co-operate in the slimming down of its engineering division, but the unions' first response was that they would fight the closures.

Apart from the closure of the two plants, job cutbacks are scheduled at other works because of over-capacity in wagon, carriage and locomotive maintenance departments. A partial rundown of the Swindon works, once the pride of the railway system, is also in prospect.

British Rail cited a fall-off of business in the export market for wagons and a drastic reduction in the United Kingdom's fleet from 132,000 to 75,000 over the past two years as the cause for the redundancies.

Employment at the Derby carriage works has been secured by recently announced orders for new coaching stock for Irish and Kenyan railways worth a total of £50m.

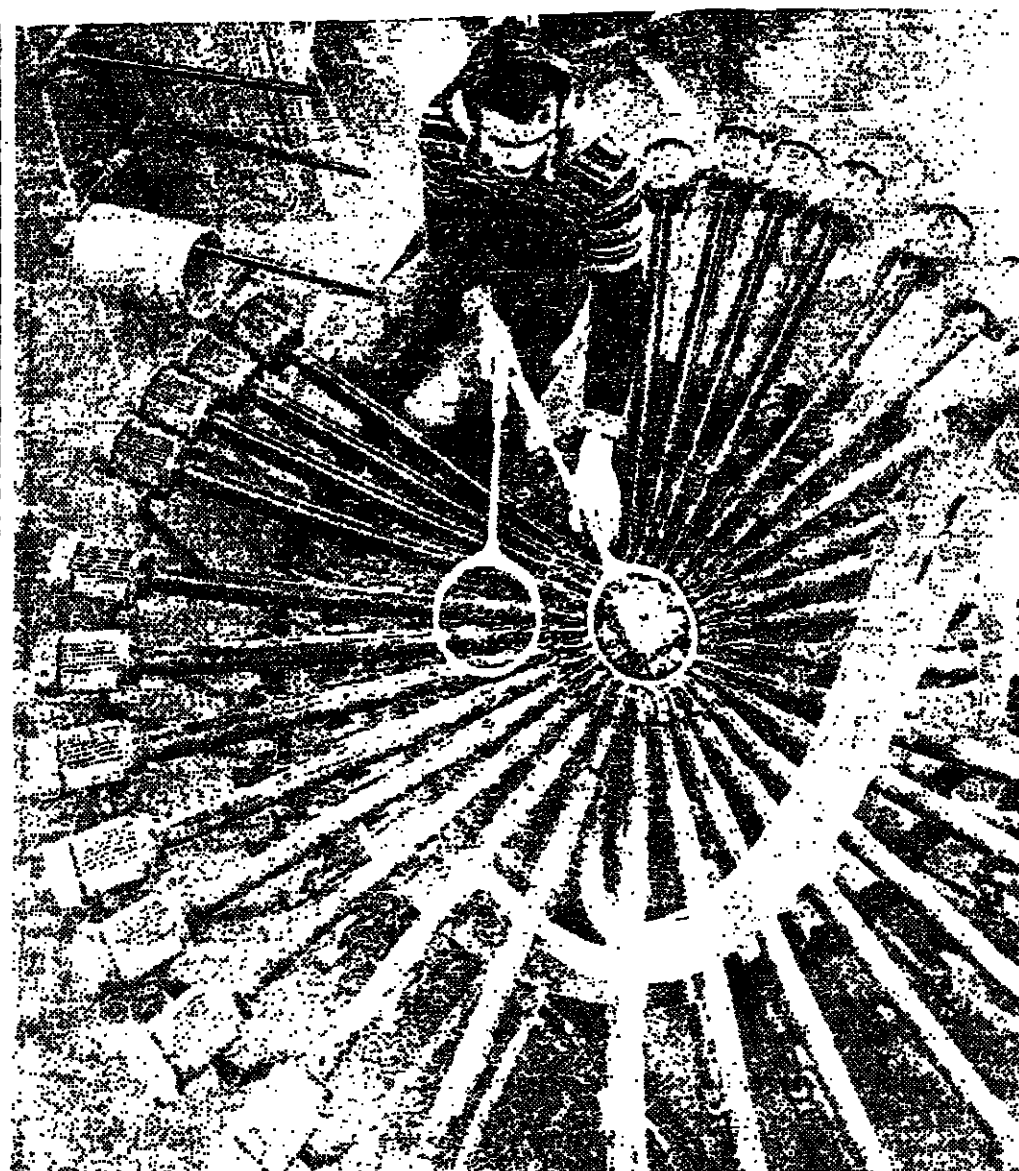
A spokesman for the NUR said last night: "We have a policy of no works closures and no compulsory redundancies. If the British Railways board wants to go down this line it will be in a direct confrontation with the National Union of Railwaymen."

He accused the board of wanting to shed assets to raise cash for the day-to-day running of the railways. The workshops job cutbacks come at a time when the NUR leadership is under increasing pressure from a new rank-and-file National Brokers' movement.

The axe is poised yet again to slice up the industry. A police van driver told senior officers after a disabled man had died from injuries received when hit by the vehicle during the disorders at Toxteth, Liverpool, last July: "At no time did I drive at anybody".

Two Merseyside police officers pleaded not guilty to unlawful killing. The jury were also told by prosecution counsel that earlier on "confused and riotous" men had been briefed by the police that they did not have general permission to use vehicles as tactical weapons.

The court heard how the Bedford Transit van, which was being used as a person carrier, drove on to waste land off Upper Parliament Street. It and officers had come under attack from between one and two hundred rioters throwing petrol bombs and other missiles.



Well drilled: Mr Keith Phillips using 32 drills to bore out string holes in a squash racquet at Grays of Cambridge, who have been employing a design consultant to help them to fight back against cheap imports from Taiwan and Japan.

Alliance threat to Westminster Tories

By David Walker

For the first time since the reorganization of London local government in the early 1960s, the Borough of Westminster's Conservatives are harbouring doubts about the loyalty of the matrons of Kensington and the citizens of Mayfair.

Not lingering doubts, just a flicker that crosses the minds of Tories when they see the canvassers of the Social Democratic Party invading genteel doorsteps.

Westminster council is solid Tory. The Labour Party, which holds 19 of the 60 council seats, might hope in the very best of years to add ten or so to that total — not enough for control.

The Social democrats and their Liberal allies are a novel element; they are putting up 58 candidates and running one of the most elaborate Alliance campaigns in London; they pose the threat of uncertainty.

To take control, the Alliance candidates would need success in the Conservative heartlands of Knightsbridge, Belgrave and Hyde Park. On present evidence that does not seem likely. "Unthinkable" is the standard Tory reaction. None the less, canvassers with true blue rosettes are cultivating their friendly territory with unusual zeal.

Westminster stretches from Millbank to Covent Garden and from Regent's Park to Kensal Rise. Characteristically, its Tory leaders have been careful spenders of the area's remarkably high rateable income. They have also shown paternalist concern for the borough's poor and black neighbourhoods, most of them in north Paddington. Above all they have been cautious.

In recent years, the Tory Halliwell, a former Liberal, who has coordinated the establishment of the SNP in the borough, "it is control of the council we are aiming at and our canvass returns indicated that this is a strong possibility."

Socially, the SDP considers its support will come from disaffected council tenants who consider Labour has no chance of gaining control and who despair of the Labour Party's leftward drift from bed-sitter and other private tenants; and from middle-class residents who have been taken for granted and ignored by the Tories.

According to Mr Guy Halliwell, a former Liberal, who has coordinated the establishment of the SNP in the borough, "it is control of the council we are aiming at and our canvass returns indicated that this is a strong possibility."

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The trial in Dublin of Gerard Tuite, who once topped Scotland Yard's "most wanted" list will begin on June 21 (The Press Association reports).

The date was fixed yesterday at Dublin's Special Criminal Court. Mr Tuite, aged 27, from Cavan, is accused of causing explosions in England between January, 1976 and March, 1979.

Plastic bullet boy buried amid rioting

From Richard Ford Belfast

Blatant bombs were thrown at the police and vehicles burnt after being hijacked in Londonderry yesterday as a boy aged 11 who died on Monday, three days after being struck by a plastic bullet, was being buried.

Rioting has taken place in the city since Steven McCoomy's death and a man was injured after a nail bomb exploded in the city centre shortly before midnight on Wednesday. One of the men, aged 67, was seriously ill in hospital last night.

In the Bogside district a car belonging to a woman who has condemned all forms of violence was gutted by fire after youths attacked it for the second night running. Mrs Eileen Semple, aged 54, a widow with seven children, chairwoman of the Bogside Women's Association, said she was the target of abuse since Steven McCoomy's death, when she alleged that recent rioting in the city was part of an orchestrated campaign of violence.

In Brussels yesterday, political manoeuvring prevented the debate in the European Parliament on a resolution demanding that the use of plastic bullets be banned in all EEC member states.

It had been thought that the resolution, proposed by Mr Neil Blaney, independent European MP from the Irish Republic, would be heard yesterday, but when it was decided in which order to discuss items the issue of plastic bullets was near the end.

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Abolition of Schools Council deplored

By Diana Geddes Education Correspondent

The Government's decision to abolish the Schools Council for Curriculum and Examinations and replace it by two smaller government-appointed quangos was condemned yesterday by opposition MPs, local authorities and teachers' organizations as another dangerous step toward greater central control.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour spokesman on education, said that the decision "could change the whole direction of the British education system."

The schools council is a charitable trust which was set up by the Government and local authorities 18 years ago to carry out research into curriculum development, teaching methods and examinations in schools.

It comprises a permanent secretariat of 131 staff and three main committees consisting of nominees of a wide variety of groups with an interest in education, including teacher unions, local authority associations, trade unions, employers, universities, examination boards, independent schools, and parents.

Its budget this year, which is shared by the Government and the local authorities, is £3.5m.

Announcing the Government's decision in the Commons yesterday, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that he and the Secretary of State for Wales had concluded that "a single body, constituted as an elaborate network of committees on the lines of the school council, is not well placed to carry out both functions (of examinations and curriculum development)."

The Government nevertheless felt the need for independent authoritative advice on how examination might best serve national aims for education. It therefore proposed the establishment of a small examinations council, appointed and funded by the Government.

It also believed there should be a small national curriculum development body with the limited task of identifying, helping to fill them, and assisting with the dissemination of curriculum innovation.

It therefore proposed to discuss with the local authority associations the establishment of a school curriculum development council, most of whose members would be teachers, but who would be appointed by the Government after consultation. It would be financed jointly by the Government and the local authorities.

Mrs Nicole Harrison, chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Councils' education committees, said that they deplored the Government's decision to abolish the schools council, and viewed his proposals with disquiet.

However, Mr Alistair Lawton, chairman of the Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils, said the proposals were "interesting and added that they looked forward to seeing how they would be worked out."

Mr Peter Andrews, acting chairman of the schools council and the new president of the Secondary Heads Association, said the decision to replace the quango by two new quangos "showed that the work of the schools council was essential. But he regarded it as a political move."

Most of the teacher unions echoed Mr Andrews' views, but in more forthright terms. Mr William Stubbs, director of education (schools) for the Inner London Education Authority since 1979, has been selected as the authoritative educational officer in succession to Mr Peter Newsam, who leaves this autumn to become chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality. Mr Stubbs, aged 44, will be in control of an annual budget of about £800m.

Overseas selling prices: Austria Sch 28; Bahrain BD 0.60; Belgium Frs 1.25; Brazil R\$ 1.00; Canada Cdn \$ 1.00; Denmark Dkr 1.00; France Frs 1.00; Germany DM 1.00; Greece Dr 1.00; Hong Kong HK\$ 1.00; India Rs 1.00; Ireland Ir£ 1.00; Italy Lit 1.00; Japan Yen 1.00; Kuwait KD 1.00; Lebanon L.L. 1.00; Malta M£ 1.00; Morocco Dir 1.00; Norway Kr 1.00; Pakistan PKR 1.00; Portugal Esc 1.00; Saudi Arabia SR 1.00; Singapore S\$ 1.00; South Africa Rand 1.00; Spain Ptas 1.00; Sweden Swk 1.00; Switzerland Sfr 1.00; Taiwan NT\$ 1.00; Thailand Baht 1.00; Turkey Liras 1.00; U.K. £ 1.00; U.S.A. \$ 1.00; Yugoslavia Din 1.00.

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Nurses to be balloted on 6% pay offer

By Jeanette Mitchell

The Royal College of Nursing, the only nursing union which forbids strike action, is to ballot its members on the Government's 6.4 per cent pay offer.

The college's 195,000 nurses will be asked to accept or reject an offer which will give student nurses now taking home £45.5 a week, a further £1.31 and staff nurses, taking home £59.06 after three years' training, a further £1.77.

Although the college continues to insist that the offer is inadequate and says it will not be recommending to its members which way to vote, the decision to hold a ballot will be widely seen as a tacit acceptance of the offer. No previous pay offer that has been put to a ballot in the royal college has been rejected by the membership.

Dame Catherine Hall, general secretary of the college, said yesterday: "We want to make it very clear that we are not retracting from our firmly held view that our 12 per cent claim was very reasonable, but we feel we have come to the end of the constitutional road."

The TUC-affiliated health service unions had hoped the college would hold out longer, but said a ballot decision will make no difference to their plans for industrial action.

When the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) begins its industrial action on Monday, members of the royal college have been instructed not to do the work of striking colleagues except when patients are at risk.

If in the ballot, which will cost about £50,000 and take between four and five weeks to complete, the pay offer is rejected, the nurses' campaign to influence the public and MPs will be continued.

'Van did not slow down'

From Arthur Osman, Mold, Clwyd

A police van driver told senior officers after a disabled man had died from injuries received when hit by the vehicle during the disorders at Toxteth, Liverpool, last July: "At no time did I drive at anybody".

Two Merseyside police officers pleaded not guilty to unlawful killing. The jury were also told by prosecution counsel that earlier on "confused and riotous" men had been briefed by the police that they did not have general permission to use vehicles as tactical weapons.

The court heard how the Bedford Transit van, which was being used as a person carrier, drove on to waste land off Upper Parliament Street. It and officers had come under attack from between one and two hundred rioters throwing petrol bombs and other missiles.

The van was "gunned" at very high engine revolutions across the ground to disperse the rioters. Constable James Keenan, aged 30, of Grassmere Avenue, the driver, and Sergeant Keith Andrew Wilkin-

son, aged 34, of Buttermere Close, Magill, said to be in charge of the vehicle, are accused of the manslaughter of David Andrew Moore, aged 23, of Avondale Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, who died on July 29 last.

Mr William Macpherson, QC, for the prosecution said that Mr Moore in company with Mr John Flynn, his brother-in-law had been crossing wasteland in the area of Upper Hunsdon Street when they encountered a group of rioters running from the police van. They could not get against the tide and turned and started to go with it.

Mr Moore, partially disabled, was hopping and attempting to run, and got on to a footpath. The van came along towards him with its headlights on, two wheels on the path and two on the waste ground.

Witnesses saw Mr Moore illuminated in the headlights and then he was struck by the vehicle, probably on its front left side. There was no slackening of its speed of about 20 mph and no brakes were applied, Mr Macpherson said. A journalist who was at the scene recorded the time

as 10.51 pm on July 28. There was no doubt that the van ran down Mr Moore, as a result of which he died, Mr Macpherson said.

He continued: "If the driver and the sergeant failed altogether to see Mr Moore, then that speed and lack of observation were factors that caused such a failure to amount to negligence of the highest and most blameworthy degree."

Later they told an inspector at Huxton police station that from what they might have had an accident without knowing about it because their vehicle had been in the area at the time, Mr Macpherson said.

Asked if they could have run over anybody without their knowing, the reply had been: "No, I do not think so, but we were bouncing all over the place — it was very rough."

Constable Keenan had allegedly told senior officers when asked if he had driven at a crowd of people: "At no time did I drive at anybody. I did not see a person come nearer to me than three yards". The hearing continues today.

Phillips FINE FURS BY AUCTION

Thursday 29 April at 10 a.m.

This sale will include furs to be sold by Direction of Executors; exceptionally fine quality Blacklambs, Black Jewels and Ranch Mink coats and jackets; fine quality sable and fox jackets; fur lined raincoats; good quality musquash coats; gentlemen's fur coats; together with a fine selection of all types of fur in all price ranges, both new and secondhand.

Viewing: Thursday 27 April 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday 28 April 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Catalogue 50p by post.

This is the last sale of the present season. The 1982/83 season of fine fur sales opens on Thursday 9 September. Entries will be accepted for this sale from Monday 26 July.

For further information please contact Dorcas Rose Ext 232.
7 Blenheim Street, New Road Street, London, W1Y 0AG Telephone 01-623 6062.

Mrs Williams calls for inquiry on Cleeland case

By Frances Gibb

Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP MP for Crosby, is to ask Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, if he will order either an inquiry into a retrial of the case of Paul Cleeland, a Stevenage decorator serving a 20-year prison sentence for murder.

An investigation by *The Times* published on Wednesday raised serious doubts about the conviction of Cleeland for the murder of Terry Clarke, a scaffolder, and added strength to the repeated requests by Mrs Williams and others for the Home Office to publish its own confidential report on the case. Yesterday Mrs Williams, who was formerly Paul Cleeland's MP, said there were sufficient doubts to justify a further examination of the case. "Obviously one cannot be 100 per cent sure that Paul Cleeland is innocent, but there is a high probability that he is, and a right course of action would now be to investigate the possibility of an inquiry being set up."

Her own efforts on behalf of Paul Cleeland eventually led to a Home Office inquiry under Mr E. J. Boothby, assistant Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, after the discovery of an extraordinary sequence of errors in Mr Cleeland's prison record.

"It was only after numerous attempts that we were able to get these records put right," Mrs Williams said. "We got nowhere by going through normal processes with the Home Office. It was only eventually on the instructions of Roy Jenkins as Home Secretary that the records were ordered to be put right."

Yet the Home Office report still remains secret. Both Mrs Williams and Mr Bowen Wells, Mr Cleeland's present MP, have repeatedly asked to see it but have been refused.

"We have always been turned down on every possible plea and attempt," Mrs Williams said. "I then asked to see the report in my

Body could be woman who escaped

From our Correspondent

A CID chief revealed yesterday that the naked remains of an unidentified woman could be those of a convicted killer who escaped from prison three years ago.

Det Chief Supt Strickland Carter, who has led an eight-month investigation to identify the skeletal remains discovered in a North Yorkshire beauty spot, said yesterday he believes the woman could be Geraldine Elizabeth Crawley, a mother of two, who was 31 when she absconded from Askham Grange women's open prison, near York, in September, 1979. She had served only four months of a three-year sentence for killing an old woman in Liverpool.

The petite Irish brunette, who had lived in Texteth, where the killing took place, walked out of the prison gates after finishing her duties in the grounds. She has never been seen since.

She left behind two young sons and a man with whom she lived. Her sons, both aged under 10, are living with foster parents in the Liverpool area and know nothing of their mother's past.

Two years after Crawley escaped detectives acting on anonymous telephone information found the remains of a woman in her thirties in thick undergrowth at Sutton Bank, about 30 miles from Askham Grange prison.

Police scientists established that the remains had lain undisturbed in the ground for at least 12 months, and possibly up to two years.

Crawley's dental records matched those in the remains, complete with top denture, evidence suggested that the dead woman had been a heavy smoker and that she had grown up in an area with a high fluoride content in its water, such as her birthplace in Dublin.

The date of Crawley's escape from prison, her height, bone structure and the fact that she had borne children all fitted with evidence that forensic scientists gleaned from examining the skeleton.

But yesterday Mr Carter added a new dimension to the mystery with the news that after she escaped, Crawley's sister in Australia told her that she had received a letter from Crawley, and later spoke to her by telephone.

Yesterday, Mr Carter, who has supervised the combing of well over 100 missing person files since the investigation began last August, appealed for Crawley to get in touch with him if she was still alive.

"If she is still alive it may be that she has started a new life with a fresh identity," he said, "but a single thumb print on a piece of white paper would prove that she was still alive and could be ruled out of his investigation."

Trust will tighten land rules

By Hugh Clayton
Environment Correspondent

Leaders of the National Trust have decided privately to take a stricter line with public bodies that want to build on its property.

Embarrassment about its decision to allow the Ministry of Defence to build an underground bunker on a trust farm has convinced the leaders that there is too much risk in such cases of political entanglement.

The decision to allow the Ministry a lease to build on about a hundredth of the 1,100-acre Bradenham estate, near High Wycombe, has caused two criticisms of the trust's council of 52 members. One is that it is dangerous to allow development of land given on condition that it would be protected against sale by the trust's power to declare property inalienable.

The other comes from peace groups who opposed the building on trust land of a key military installation which will house command headquarters of a United Kingdom air defence and Nato air forces.

The council faces further controversy when opponents of the leasing decision discover that it will be almost impossible to reverse quickly by constitutional means.

Opponents are trying to obtain the 500 signatures of trust members needed for a special general meeting to cover that it will be almost impossible to reverse quickly by constitutional means.

The constitution of the trust is backed by a succession of statutes, of which the latest says that the acts of the council will be "deemed valid in all respects" as long as half of its members have been elected. About a third of the elected members come up for reelection at each annual meeting.

The 25 non-elected members are appointed by lists of organizations such as the trustees of the British Museum and the Ramblers Association. The list is reviewed every six years, and the next change for members will be by vote at the annual meeting in November.

Power prices 'raised by nuclear costs'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The reason for the price of electricity rising much faster than the rate of inflation over the past few years lies in the high costs to the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) of its nuclear energy programme.

Mr Colin Sweet, director of the Centre for Energy Studies in London, said yesterday that assertion was made when he introduced *The Costs of Nuclear Power*, an analysis prepared at the centre. It is published by the Anti Nuclear Campaign as part of its build-up of opposition to plans to build 10 of the American designed pressurized water reactors, (PWRs), in Britain in the 10 years from 1984.

Mr Sweet says the price of coal sold to the generating board has been held in line with inflation, and even the high price of oil since 1979 cannot be blamed for the rising price of electricity.

Hence his argument that the effect of the high capital spending on nuclear stations is coming home to roost.

But it is on the implication for future prices of electricity that his analysis focuses attention, if the proposed vast expansion with PWRs goes ahead. Mr Sweet is adamant that none of the available evidence substantiates the repeated allegation by the electricity industry, the Atomic Energy Authority and the Department of Energy that nuclear power is a cheap energy option.

He argues that the CEGB is doing itself and the consumer a disservice by concentrating on building a group of very large and very expensive nuclear stations. Mr Sweet

says: "The matter of nuclear cost is not only understated, it is one of the key propositions which must be proved at the public inquiry into plans for the first PWR at Sizewell, in Suffolk."

The Department of Energy estimate for the PWR nuclear programme is £15,000m. Mr Sweet's analysis produces an estimate of more than £35,000m, a sum which exceeds the investment in the missile system.

Past experience of the gap between original estimate and the eventual cost, time and performance of almost every project in the civil nuclear programme forms an important ingredient in the analysis.

Mr Sweet says the price of coal is supposed to reflect the cost of extraction in its production (which he says the CEGB figures do not), and the price is comparable to another. Again, he says, that is not possible with available CEGB information.

He lists other data affecting the price of electricity where, in his view, the board fails to meet basic requirements.

These are that the board never includes the largest costs for research and development; does not usually include the full capital cost; has not always included interest charges during construction or interest charges on stored fuel; bases its data on notional operating costs, which are always an overstatement of the actual operating costs of nuclear stations; and consistently underestimates nuclear fuel costs relative to coal.

whether it would be said that the kind of balance imposed on British broadcasters was to be given up.

"Do we take it for granted that, with cable and satellite services, privately owned, some kind of balance will emerge overall?" he said. "I can only register as a fact that the public control of broadcasting has preserved a healthier balance and done a great deal more to create an informed and sceptical democracy than the private ownership of the press."

'Pandora's box' in broadcast changes

By Kenneth Gosling

The British tradition of public service broadcasting built on the Reithian foundations of control and regulation in the service of broad social purposes.

"Might not therefore some consideration of social purposes in respect of these new technologies be valuable as a guide to the future?" he asked.

On whether the state should accept a responsibility for these new services, Lord Thomson said that cable and satellites were likely to provide services that could be received unselectively, like the existing services.

"They go into the family sitting-room available to children on touching the button. They are distinctly different from the act of choice in buying a video cassette or a theatre ticket."

If the present close degree of regulation became inappropriate and, in any case, impractical, Lord Thomson asked whether there were any half-way houses short of the total deregulation some people were advocating.

He said he foresaw a further area of public concern as being over political balance, and wondered



Catherine Bailey, aged two, seemed more interested in the Lord Mayor's chain than a storybook when Sir Christopher Leaver and the Lady Mayoress visited the new Barbican library yesterday.

Silicon Glen lures £400m investment

From Jonathan Wills, Glasgow

"Silicon Glen" used to be a catch phrase employed by public relations men to attract microchip business to Scotland. The cliché has now come true.

According to the Scottish Development Agency, the Central Lowlands are the best place in Europe for investment by the booming microchip business in Scotland. The cliché has now come true.

The agency unveiled a report yesterday to publicize Scotland's electronic achievements and attract further investment in computer graphics, robotics, data matrices and video display units.

Agency officials noted that even the Japanese wanted to invest in Silicon Glen. American engineers were eager to make electronic wafers near Dollar, and the French and the Germans showed interest too.

About £400m has been invested in Silicon Glen over the past five years. Already 4,000 lowland Scots are employed by more than 200 electronics firms. That puts Scotland in the world class, the report says.

A key factor has been the great reserve of expertise on Scottish higher education. The country's eight universities and 55 technical colleges help new and established companies to design machines which remove the need for skilled and unskilled labour alike.

Defence and space electronics are a forte of such Scottish-based companies as Ferranti.

Mr Alexander Fletcher, the Scottish Minister for Industry, was present to give the proceedings the seal of approval and to applaud the plans of the agency's new electronics division, which has a budget of £10m.

Mr Fletcher radiated optimism about the new industry, as well he might. His job, at least, is too complicated to be taken over by the robots.

Indian to appeal on language bar to benefit

From Our Correspondent Gloucester

An Indian woman who has been refused supplementary benefit because she cannot speak English is to appeal to the Social Security Commissioners in London.

Mrs Parvathi Varachis, aged 48, who lives with her son in High Street, Tredworth, Gloucester, was refused benefit last year because social security officials said that by failing to learn the language she had disqualified herself from getting a job.

New boot does not wear out mountains

By Ronald Faux

Mr Kenneth Ledward is a noted climbing equipment specialist whose concern for mountains has led him to design a boot that does not wear out. The scars plainly visible on a number of popular hills in the Lake District, Snowdonia and Scotland are caused by the pressure of feet that are often too stoutly shod.

According to Mr Ledward, average mountain boots have a brutal impact on the terrain. They happen to be staid on; they are heavy, the edges are sharply angled and act like a chisel on the ground, and the narrow space cleats on the rubber sole pick up chunks of pathway.

"By the time a few hundred thousand walkers have tramped up the same path it is not surprising that quite a lot of it is no longer there."

The Ken Ledward Equipment Testing Service (Kleats) has investigated a range of climbing equipment from thermal underwear to non-waterproof waterproofs, but nothing as basic as a boot.

He showed me a well battered example of his design in which he had walked 1,540 miles across the mountains. "There is still plenty of life in them. They are designed basically to be safe and to give a better grip on mixed ground. The edges are more rounded and the whole boot

much lighter and more flexible than average," he said.

The sole had broadly spaced cleats and round studs of rubber that did not pick up the pathway. The boot is marketed by Karri-moor, a British company, but has been manufactured in Italy. "No British company would come up with the goods at a reasonable price," he said.

Mr Ledward argued that most walkers and backpackers were "overbooted", shod for the Alps when something much lighter and easier on both feet and the countryside would do.

He conducted a survey among students of outdoor education and discovered that for general use most preferred gym shoes or a training shoe. He also noted that people in lighter footwear moved faster, were more agile and suffered less from sore feet.

CB RESCUE PLEA

The Langdale and Ambleside Mountain Rescue Team has appealed to walkers and climbers in the Lake District who need emergency help to summon it by telephone instead of, or in addition to, CB radio. The team says that use of CB radio by itself could result in complications and delays.

Pollution threat by reservoir critics

By Craig Seton

A group opposed to the siting of a new reservoir in farm land in the Roadford Valley, in west Devon, is threatening deliberately to pollute the river Tamar if the scheme goes ahead.

The threat was made at the end of a third public inquiry this week into the proposed size of the reservoir, whose siting on 730 acres of the valley has already been accepted by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The scheme has for years run into intense opposition from the National Farmer's Union, Mr Peter Mills, Conservative MP for Devon, West, more than a dozen farmers who will be affected, and other residents in the valley.

They are still fighting the choice of site and although that decision has already been made, and insist that the reservoir should be on Dartmoor and not on agricultural land.

Mrs Rosemary Cook, the wife of a farmer whose land at Broadwoodwidge, near Liston, is not affected by the scheme, said yesterday that her 12-member Roadford Valley Defence Committee would contaminate the Tamar, which runs between Devon and Cornwall, if the valley was flooded.

She said the Tamar was visited by tens of thousands of people a year and the plan to pollute it would be accompanied by an intensive publicity campaign to draw the public's attention to the "damned stupid" plan for the reservoir.

There is an enormous amount of waste land on the moor near by, but they are going to flood good, profitable farm land which produces enormous amounts of beef, sheep and corn. We hope it will not come to it, but if they flood the Roadford Valley we will carry out our threat," she said.

Mrs Gook, aged 38, who refused to identify the other members of the defence committee, accused Mr Heseltine and the South West Water Authority of agreeing to the Roadford site rather than one on moorland near by because of the strength of the Dartmoor Preservation Society, which she said was violently opposed to the use of any more land for the reservoir.

The water authority has found that the Roadford scheme has become its most difficult plan since it was put forward eight years ago.

Three public inquiries have been held into the scheme. The first led to a recommendation from the inquiry inspector that Roadford should be the site. A second was held into the possible effect earth movements could have on the reservoir's dam, which is to be a quarter of a mile long.

The third inquiry was held over two days this week on the directions of Mr Heseltine, who wanted the water authority to reconsider the reservoir's size. The water authority is insisting that the size should remain as planned.

The water authority has spent up to £1m buying up farming land and property. It said yesterday that it did not take Mrs Cook's threat too seriously, but if people acted illegally it would call in the full force of the law.

A decision on the size of the reservoir by the new public inquiry is not expected for several months.

The stress of flying west

By Felicity Jones

Over a two-year period nearly 200 people were admitted to a psychiatric hospital straight from Heathrow airport suffering from mental illness. It was often related to the rapid time-zone changes experienced by air travellers.

Research by two consultant psychiatrists who investigated admissions to St Bernard's Hospital in Southall, between 1976 and 1978, discovered that depression was found significantly more frequently in passengers travelling from east to west.

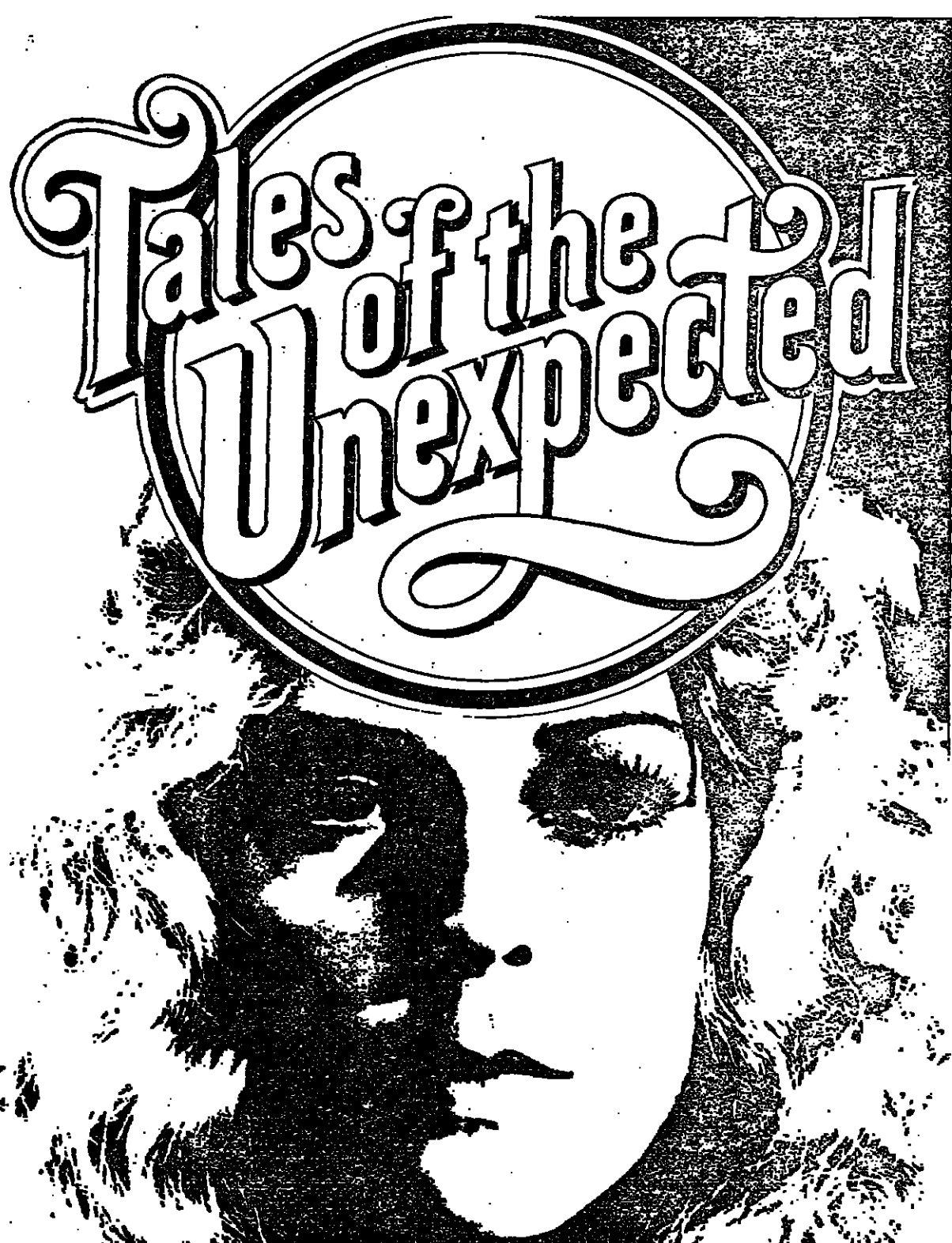
Any person assessed as suffering from mental illness at the airport is taken to the hospital for treatment. Of 186 admitted, 93 were diagnosed as a schizophrenic and of

those, 24 were found "aimlessly wandering" at the airport.

The admissions from Heathrow airport accounted for 22 per cent of all schizophrenic patients admitted to the hospital according to a report in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*.

Depression was significantly triggered by flights from east to west and the researchers add that the data support a proposal that "time zone changes precipitate affective illness in predisposed individuals".

Conditions brought about by alcohol withdrawal and drugs were relatively rare and in the cases of schizophrenia men outnumbered women.



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Thatcher: I cannot rule out use of force

FALKLANDS

"I cannot rule out the use of force," Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared during question time exchanges in the House of Commons on the Falkland Islands. She pointed out that Britain has the right of self-defence in respect of islands that had been invaded under the charter of the United Nations.

Of course (she went on) I prefer and will do everything possible to seek a peaceful solution. But it is not easy, particularly with someone seeking a settlement with someone of whose people will say they will only withdraw if they succeed in obtaining sovereignty as the price of that withdrawal.

You have to be prepared to defend the things in which you believe and be prepared to use force if that is the only way to secure the future of liberty and self-determination.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C) in opening the exchange, asked: Despite her strong action and the Government's protest to the United Nations, Mrs Thatcher: I am well aware of what happened in the dispute to which Mr Aiken refers. Another meeting called by the Prime Minister is taking place in the coming two days.

Because of the reasons he gave, we have to watch carefully the task force and its presence until withdrawal of the troops is complete.

Mr Edward Gardiner (South Fylde, C): Those of us who have just returned from the meeting of the IPU in Lagos found that delegates from all parts of the Commonwealth recognised the justice of our case and expressed firm and unequivocal support for what the Government is doing now to deal with this crisis in the Argentine.

Mrs Thatcher: I am grateful to him. Nations almost everywhere recognise the unprovoked aggression must not be seen to countenance it. It does not only be impossible for the people of the Falkland Islands but for many, many other peoples across the world.

Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham, South, Lab): Since the Argentine Government are still defying Resolution 502 of the United Nations, could not this put a greater obligation on the Security Council and on all those members of the United Nations who have agreed to support Argentine aggression?

Can Mrs Thatcher assure the House that the policy and the action of the Government will be to continue to support all those countries who have condemned the Argentine aggression but who may have other views about wider aspects of the matter?

Mrs Thatcher: It is certainly true that some countries may have their own views about the actual sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, but most of them condemn the unprovoked aggression and would support us in

major British interests in Antarctica.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I confirm what he has said. It is a matter of convenience, through the Falkland Islands. Our title there is quite different. It is extremely important, among other reasons, for those that Dr Owen gave.

Mr James Marshall (Leicester, South, Lab): Is Mrs Thatcher prepared to give an undertaking that no force will be used against east or west Falklands until all avenues of diplomacy including the United Nations have been fully explored and exhausted?

Mrs Thatcher: I prefer what the Foreign Secretary said yesterday. While we are making every effort to secure a peaceful settlement, the use of force cannot be ruled out.

Mr Jonathan Aiken (East Thanet, C): Will Mrs Thatcher find time to examine the record of the Argentine junta in falling honourable international agreements, and in particular, take note that in recent months it has dishonoured its international agreement to recognise the authority of the Pope as mediator in its dispute with Chile.

Against that background, what evidence is there that any agreement will be reached? Is the worth of the paper it is written on?

Mrs Thatcher: I am well aware of what happened in the dispute to which Mr Aiken refers. Another meeting called by the Prime Minister is taking place in the coming two days.

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securing the withdrawal of the Argentine forces and also recognise that we, too, have rights of self-defence under article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East, Scot Nat): In relation to the Falkland Islands, does the Prime Minister realise that if the Government engages in hostilities before the protestations of negotiation have been fully and adequately carried out, a lot of the support that she has received in this House and at home and abroad will disappear like snow off a dyke on a hot spring day?

In pursuit of negotiations for a peaceful settlement, will she consider the transfer of sovereignty to the United Nations—(Conservative shouts of "No")—so that the people of the Falkland Islands will be able to have their sovereignty guaranteed by an international body?

Mrs Thatcher: I cannot rule out the use of force. The process of negotiation could go on indefinitely. There is no end to it. We must accept we have the right of self-defence for islands that have been invaded under article 51 of the Charter.

Of course we would all prefer and will do everything possible to seek a peaceful settlement. It is not easy, particularly with someone seeking a settlement with someone of whose people will say they will only withdraw if they succeed in obtaining sovereignty as the price of that withdrawal.

Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C): Will she dissociate herself from the view that the British flag is just another piece of cloth and those who consider it might be convenient to have it fluttering side by side with the Argentine flag?

Would she stress once again the importance of the symbolism of the British flag?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, of course. To us all here, and in particular in the Falklands, the flag is a great symbol of pride and allegiance to the Crown, and no-one will quarrel for one moment with that statement.

Mr Robert Parry (Liverpool, Scotland Exchange, Lab): Will Mrs Thatcher now offer her resignation in view of the revelation that her Government has recently been supplying arms to Argentina which may be used against the British forces in the Falkland Islands. Is this not tantamount to treasonable conduct?

Mrs Thatcher: If he looks at the history of supplying arms to Argentina, he will see a number of contracts were negotiated during the lifetime of the Labour Government.

Mr Thomas Cox (Wandsworth, Tooting, Lab): In view of her attitude towards the fascist junta in Argentina as compared with the attitude of the British Government on another fascist junta in Turkey, which is still occupying part of a Commonwealth country, namely Cyprus, will Mrs Thatcher consider that the Government should have taken to go these troops removed and what will she do if the generals in Ankara refuse to remove them?

Mrs Thatcher: I understand that



Spearing: Retain support

Wilson: Transfer to UN

the military government in Turkey has said it intends to return to democratic government as soon as possible and has indicated to the European Community the timetable for doing that which it hopes to achieve.

Dr Brian Mawhinney (Peterborough, C): If a democracy is not willing to defend its own territory or people against conventional armed attack after only one day, all peaceful negotiations have been exhausted, it may well find its credibility seriously damaged when it joins with other democracies in an organization such as NATO.

Mrs Thatcher: I wholly agree with him. You have to be prepared to defend the things in which you believe, and be prepared to use force if that is the only way to secure the future of liberty and self-determination.

During exchanges about the business for next week, Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Opposition, asked Mr John Biffen, Lord President of the Council and leader of the House of Commons, to clear up the mystery of the disappearing White Paper on defence.

Mr Biffen: The White Paper on defence has not disappeared. It is still in the House of Commons. It is a measure and a budget, and it is a very important document.

Mr Foot: Will he give an assurance that the addendum to the White Paper will be even longer than the White Paper itself, or is it to be subsumed in the main paper?

Mr Biffen: The Leader of the Opposition is more perceptive than his honour than his military judgment. It is not the Secretary of State for Defence who will earn the respect and endorsement of the House by taking account of recent events before producing his White Paper.

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New examinations council

EDUCATION

The Schools Council is to be replaced by an Examinations Council and a School Curriculum Development Council, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced in a statement.

He said that he and Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, had considered the matter in the light of Mrs Thatcher's report published last October, and the comments on it. The review had prompted fresh thought on the two functions of the Schools Council and the best way of performing them.

These functions concern the system of examination at 16 plus and 18 plus (he said) and the development of the school curriculum.

We have concluded that a single body, constituted as an elaborate network of committees on the lines of the Schools Council, will not be well placed to carry out both functions.

On examinations, radical changes are required. Greater attention needs to be given to the co-ordination and supervision of examinations at 16 plus and 18 plus. Ministers need independent authoritative advice on how these examinations can best serve national aims for education. We shall soon need advice on the national criteria now being developed for the 16 plus examination.

The Schools Council is a large body constituted from the nominees of many interest groups. We need a small body comprising persons nominated by the Secretaries of State for their fitness for this particular important responsibility.

We shall accordingly discuss with the local authority associations the establishment of an Examinations Council, appointed and funded by the Secretaries of State.

Curriculum development is a practical and professional activity which is carried out continually throughout the education system. This activity needs to be reinforced by a national body with the limited task of identifying and disseminating ideas of curricular innovation.

Such a body—a School Curriculum Development Council—needs to reflect the many interests concerned, particularly the teachers. Its constitution should promote the sensible ordering of priorities, and efficient operation.

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with the local authorities and ourselves in the new arrangements we propose. Our aim is to improve the quality of the examinations system and to promote the effective development of the school curriculum.

Mr Neil Kinnock, chief Opposition spokesman on education (Belfast, Lab): We, too, agree with the aim to see improvement in the quality of the examination system and to develop the quality of the schools curriculum. But will the proposals brought before us today achieve these objectives?

The Government has rewarded Mr Trenaman by rejecting his two most salient recommendations that the Schools Council should remain and be slightly changed in size, and that there should be reorganization of its committee structure.

In this rejection of her recommendations, which enjoyed widespread consensus throughout the education world, because the Government did not get its way in the endorsement of its hope for centralization policy and its overruled her recommendations to get the two world.

His proposals for the examination council do not involve any partnership with the local authorities and will be comprised of people that conform to his criteria of what he calls "fitness" for this particularly important responsibility.

Who will be on the examination council and what kind of qualities will he be looking for? What we have before us is a document that can change the whole direction of British education system.

In his statement he talks about examinations for 16 plus and 18 plus but what has happened to the 17 plus and what is his attitude to other examinations in the further education system? Can he give us a definition of national curriculum that is considerably less vague than the phrase he has used?

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): As an ex-member of the Schools Council for some years, an elected member of the Teachers' Union, and a member of the Schools Council, they had gone through the process of election and were all practising teachers.

For years the Conservative Party has waged a vendetta against the Schools Council because it was not carrying out what they wanted.

Mr Keith Joseph: It was Conservative ministers who gave birth to the Schools Council in the first place.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C): On this side of the House there are many who would like to have seen the Schools Council abolished, lock, stock and barrel.

If any remnants are to be in existence, it would be much better to have a body rather than a committee of nonsensical curriculum development council.

Mr Keith Joseph: We are going to bring to an end Government intervention in the Schools Council and to bring into existence two bodies which will be smaller, with much more responsibility.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Stockport, North, Lab): From when does he expect the two bodies to operate?

Mr Keith Joseph: I hope the two bodies will come into existence very soon and the curriculum development body—with help from the local education authorities association—by about the turn of the year.

Mr Keith Joseph: We shall welcome opportunities to talk to the unions if they wish to discuss the curriculum development council. Mr Harry Greenway (Edinburgh, North, C): On teachers appointed to the new council, will he assure us that they will be full-time teachers, and not part-time teachers, and that they will be involved in all the day-to-day running of the schools?

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Heffer thinks Labour will fight Euro-elections

From George Clark, Strasbourg

Mr Eric Heffer, Labour's spokesman on European affairs, who was in Strasbourg yesterday to meet members of the socialist group of the European Parliament, said he believed that although there was pressure from some sections of the party to boycott the next direct elections to the Strasbourg parliament, the party would decide to fight.

He agreed with Mrs Barbara Castle, leader of the Labour group of MEPs, that even with the election of a Labour government committed to taking Britain out of the EEC it would be an advantage to have Labour MEPs elected in June, 1982, to use the Strasbourg Parliament as a platform for explaining Labour's policy and trying to get the sister socialist parties in facilitating Britain's withdrawal.

Mr Heffer said he did not think there would be a change in the attitude of the trade unions to Labour's official policy on withdrawal, but at union conferences this summer there could be a move towards backing a referendum in advance of a decision to get the electorate's views on the issue of common sense.

Mrs Castle thought the party would reject that. The election manifesto would be specific, and would in effect be a referendum in the issue. If there was another referendum all the resources of pro-European parties and big business would be thrown behind the campaign for remaining in the EEC.

But a confidential document in the hands of members of the national executive committee out that through being the EEC institutions, including the Parliament, British Labour Party may not get a subvention from European funds in running the European election campaign.

Prepared by the Labour Party research department for the NEC European Liaison Committee and the international and organization subcommittees, the document states: "In 1979 the party spent just under £200,000 in the campaign, a sum which was reimbursed from funds provided by the European Assembly by the socialist group and by them to the Confederation of EEC Socialist.

The fact that we are unlikely to be able to agree a new framework manifesto with other members of the Confederation of Socialist Parties

Heritage trust fund dreads a big claim

By A Staff Reporter

The honeymoon period enjoyed by watchdogs of the nation's heritage, with the rescue of historic houses such as Canons Ashby and of endangered species such as the greater horseshoe bat, may about to end. Today, St George's Day, it is two years since Mr Norman St John-Stevas, then arts minister, announced at a private party the birth of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Set up in the aftermath of the furore over Ashmolean, the home of Lord Rosbery, which the government refused to buy, the fund's purpose was to act as a safety net against the loss of works of art, stretches of land and other items of the national heritage.

So far its trustees, who include university professors, peers and a trade union leader, have been extremely successful.

But how long can it last? In the next 12 months there will be a question mark over some five outstanding estates, each of which could bring a claim of £3m on the fund's total capital of £15m.

Last week it was disclosed that North Yorkshire County Council wanted to sell the twelfth-century ruins of Fountains Abbey and its Fountains, shortly before the proposed sale of Haver Castle was announced and other owners are equally hard pressed. The fund is facing the possibility of Lord Scarisbrick's Weston Park and Lord Exeter's Burghley House coming on to the market.

Therapist jobs unfilled

By Jeanette Mitchell

The health and social services are so short of occupational therapists that half of the posts are vacant, the British Association of Occupational Therapists says.

Britain's 3,000 occupational therapists help people who have been in hospital, particularly the elderly, to lead a normal life again. With the elderly population increasing at the rate of 2 per cent a year and government policy centred on community rather than residential care, occupational therapists are considered to have an increasingly important role.

Air Vice-Marshal David

Orchestra offers concerts for sale

By Christopher Warman Arts Correspondent

The London Philharmonic Orchestra, celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, is launching an ambitious campaign to attract sponsorship for its jubilee by offering companies a deal in which they can buy the orchestra for a concert.

An advertising programme accompanying the project will link the concerts directly to the sponsors with such slogans as "Catch the 1812, courtesy of British Rail". Pictures at an exhibition provided by Kodak, and "Pastoral Symphony presented by Cow and Gate".

The orchestra's new approach to sponsorship involves companies buying "share" in its fiftieth anniversary season. It is seeking 10 companies prepared to buy a share for £30,000 each. For that there will be an LPO concert at the Festival Hall in their name, prominent advertising and publicity and 40 seats and a reception with members of the orchestra on the evening of the concert.

However, the sponsors will not be allowed to choose the choice of the LPO's programme for the 1982-83 season, which has already been drawn up. But the orchestra does not rule out the possibility of special "clients" asking for particular works, and when it gives concerts sponsored by Mars Ltd in Slough later this year the LPO will by request include Holst's suite, *The Planets*, in the programme.

It is intended that each of the 10 £30,000 shares will provide the orchestra with £10,000 of direct income. The remaining £20,000 will go to the orchestra's publicity campaign. To help to promote the package, the LPO, a self-governing body owned by its players, has appointed an advertising agency. The project was launched on Wednesday at a special concert in the main auction room at Christie's, where the music was suitably wide-ranging, from Mozart to *Oliver*.

It is believed that no other arts organization has attempted a sponsorship drive on such a scale and Miss Rosalind Freeborn, the orchestra's publicity manager, explained yesterday that the time had come for the LPO to be more innovative.

"We should not expect companies to give on an altruistic basis, we must provide a tangible return for their investment. The LPO can give companies first-class advertising exposure and the best possible publicity coverage. We want to work more closely with sponsors to further both their aims and ours," she said.

It will be an important boost to the orchestra if it can raise £300,000 in the share scheme. Sponsorship runs at present at about £100,000 a year. The annual turnover of the LPO is £1.75m, and the average cost of putting on a concert is between £16,000 and £17,000 with box office takings amounting to about £10,000.

"If these came up, the total could clean us out," Mr Brian Lang, the fund's secretary, said. "The Government is supposed to give help if there is a disproportionate claim for money, but that seems highly unlikely in the present circumstances."

"We are in a double bind. If we spend all our capital we can no longer operate as an emergency fund, yet if we do not, the Government can accuse us of not using our resources."

Lord Charteris of Amfield, the trustees' chairman, saw the problem in his first annual report. He wrote: "Our great fear is that we may be faced with a sudden decision to dispose of an entire house and its contents like Mentmore."

Our resources could not cope with such a sale," the National Heritage was undergoing continual erosion, he said.

"The National Trusts cannot be expected to accept the burden of any more houses and we cannot be expected regularly to endow such houses as Canons Ashby."

He said the trustees were worried by continuing pressure on owners of important heritage items to dispose of them to meet tax demands or to cope with recession and provide for the future.

The trustees do not want the fund to exist solely for the big items. So far they have steered a skilful balance, earning criticism both for "frittering their money on small items" and for spending too much on national institutions, a sure sign of a middle course.

Tapping rules queried

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, was accused yesterday by the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCCL) of "slipping out" an important change in the law on telephone tapping through a written answer to a parliamentary question.

The Home Office said last night that the change, which extends the types of crime for which interception of telephone calls or mail are allowable, was already in operation.

Interception is permissible for crimes classed as "really serious", although it may given.

also be authorized in two categories of less serious offences.

Those are when either a large number of people are involved or violence is expected. Otherwise, "really serious" means a crime for which a man with no previous record could be expected to get three years' imprisonment.

Mr Whitelaw has now added, without debate or public financial rewards are "very large". No sum is



Mr Gerry Branch kissing the hand of the Queen Mother during her tour of Smithfield market.

Smithfield welcomes the Queen Mother

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who is an honorary member of the Butchers' Company, was greeted with kisses, flowers and Cockney humour when she visited Smithfield Market, in London yesterday.

As she arrived at the market she was greeted with the refrain, "Maybe it's because she's a Londoner", and she hardly stepped inside before a Mr Gerry Branch, a cutter, had planted two kisses on her hand.

"You look very lovely today," Mr Branch said "You met me in 1968, do you remember me." The Queen Mother looked bemused, so Mr

Branch added: "Of course I'm a lot better looking nowadays."

Later the Queen Mother could not fail to notice Mr Sean Burnage, aged 32, who was flag draped and wearing a red, white and blue hat. "You look very patriotic," she remarked.

The Queen Mother, dressed in pale blue, took up the challenge from Mr Ronald Wise, who reminded her that the Prince of Wales pushed a barrow when he visited the market two years ago. "I'll push one when I come back next year," she said.

Mr Jimmy Ellis and Mr Eddie Kanter had brought children,

helped by the Variety Club of Great Britain, to see the Queen Mother and it was they who started the singing. Others took up the refrain: "We'll be loving her, always", and as she left, more than half an hour later, the market workers burst into "Rule Britannia".

During her visit the Queen Mother was presented with 120lb of beef from a beast raised by Mr Dennis Cowe, an Aberdeenshire farmer.

The visit marked the centenary of the first shipment of New Zealand meat to Britain and the Queen Mother was also presented with two New Zealand lambs

Lords uphold police in cannabis case

The police were fully justified in prosecuting a youth for possessing minute traces of cannabis, the House of Lords ruled today. In a decision of importance to prosecuting authorities, five Law Lords unanimously allowed an appeal by Cambridgehire police against a Court of Appeal ruling that Peregrine Boyesen, aged 18, was not guilty of possessing the drug.

The Court of Appeal had quashed the Cambridge Crown Court conviction against Boyesen, a leather cutter, of Wothorpe, Lincolnshire, on the grounds that the quantity of cannabis found on him could not be regarded as "usable".

The Court of Appeal judges criticized the prosecution as "offensive" and said it was wrong to bring the "whole machinery of the law" into play to prosecute a man who had only five milligrammes of cannabis resin.

But Lord Scarman said yesterday that the "usability" test adopted by the Court of Appeal was incorrect in law.

The judge's criticism of the prosecuting authority and the trial judge, Judge Wild, was not justified, he said. The Chief Constable of Cambridge, who authorized the prosecution, was fully justified in doing so.

Lord Scarman said the prosecution had to show that there was some recognizable quantity of the drug in the accused's possession. If not, there was no offence. "But the view that possession is only serious enough if the quantity is capable of being misused is a highly dubious one," he said.

Lord Wilberforce, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Roskill and Lord Bridge of Harwich agreed in allowing the police appeal and restoring Boyesen's conviction by a jury.

Boyesen's lawyers said it was not known whether he would have to pay the £25 fine and £150 costs order made against him in the Crown Court.

Law Report, page 12

Merger for Whitehall waste unit

By David Nicholson-Lord

The unit investigating Whitehall efficiency under the direction of Sir Derek Rayner, the Prime Minister's adviser on eliminating waste, is to be merged with the newly created management department of the Civil Service, it was announced yesterday.

The Rayner unit, at present based in the Cabinet Office, is being integrated early next month into the Management and Personnel Office, which hived off the efficiency function when the Civil Service Department was disbanded last November.

The MPO then took over broad responsibility for personnel management and the Treasury for pay.

The move, which seems certain to be viewed as a potential blurring of the unit's cutting edge, will mean that Mr Clive Riebel, its head, will report to Mr John Cassels, Second Permanent Secretary at the MPO, and not to Sir Derek. Sir Derek vice-chairman of Marks and Spencer, will continue to advise Mrs Margaret Thatcher on efficiency.

The change coincides with the announcement by the MPO of an "action plan" for the coming year in which it promises a joint initiative with the Treasury to improve financial management in the Civil Service, and a special review of staff selection and training.

Emphasis will be put on broadening the experience of potential "high-fliers" and securing more job interchange with industry and the private sector; the latter is an aim that has proved noticeably difficult to achieve.

Lady Young, Lord Privy Seal, the minister in charge of the MPO, said yesterday that for the Rayner approach to continue it must become a permanent and accepted part of Civil Service work. Integrating the Rayner unit within the MPO would help to achieve that.

Doctor objects to drugs 'consent' law

By Lucy Hodges

Strong objections to the proposed legislation on mental health, which says that drugs should be given to patients only with their consent, came yesterday from Dr Edgar Udwin, medical director of Broadmoor, the special hospital for mentally abnormal offenders.

He told the Commons standing committee on the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill that the proposal that a second medical opinion should be given when a patient refused drugs could hinder the patient's treatment.

At Broadmoor that would mean bringing in an independent doctor to agree a course of treatment about twice a day where the patient did not consent. "It is my hope that Clause 41 will be amended to the point where it is possible to give one's patient at all times a tranquilizer or an aspirin," he said.

The anti-depressants and the tranquilizers bear the same relationship to psychiatry as the chemotherapeutic agents and the antibiotics do to physical medicine.

"It has been the experience of all of us that the resentment caused by the imposition of treatment at an early stage of mental illness is followed by assent and even gratitude when the treatment is successful, as it is in so many cases."

Dr Udwin said he agreed with the other safeguards in the Bill in consent to treatment for brain surgery, electric shocks and hormone therapy. But he thought medication was in a different category and that patients' complaints about drugs could be referred to the proposed new Mental Health Act Commission.

He also defended Section 141 of the Mental Health Act, which says that patients cannot sue staff over detention, liberty, or anything unless they show that the person acted in bad faith or without reasonable care and unless they can get the permission of a High Court judge.

MIND, the Mental Health charity, is trying to have that changed, ultimately through two cases now before the European Commission of Human Rights. But Dr Udwin said the section should stay to protect nurses from vexatious law suits.

He also called for the law on censorship of patients' correspondence to remain. Letters in and out of special hospitals can be stopped. Under the new law such hospitals will be able to scrutinize only incoming mail.

Dr Udwin said that could cause "terrible distress" to the victims of such letters, who could be the subject of death threats.

Earlier in the session Sir Wilfred Bourne, permanent secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department, announced that the government had decided to extend aid by way of representation to patients appearing before mental health review tribunals. It has been under strong pressure to do that for a long time. Sir Wilfred said the change would apply in late summer or early in the autumn.

Iranian student says he faces execution

Hassan Noorali, an Iranian student aged 21, has gone into hiding in Britain because he fears his life is in danger. He said yesterday that he faced possible deportation by the Home Office, but "certain" death if he returned to Iran.

His visa has expired, making his continued presence in Britain illegal, because the Iranian Embassy is blocking his attempt to renew it.

Mr Noorali claims he is penniless as the Ayatollah Khomeini's regime in the Islamic Republic of Iran has expelled him from his family. He has also been expelled from the Bolton Institute of Technology, where he owes £2,500 in fees.

Mr Noorali said at an undisclosed address in Liverpool that he has copies of secret documents showing that Iranian Embassy staff in London are under orders to refuse renewal of passports of "counter-revolutionaries", especially so-called students.

He said: "I am now an illegal entrant to this country. But if the Home Office deports me I shall be picked up at Tehran airport and executed. I face certain death if I am deported."

A Home Office spokesman said: "He is an illegal entrant and as such he could be deported. But, if he fears returning to Iran he can ask for refugee status."

Move to end 'cowboy' security firms

By Richard Evans

Codes of conduct and ethics for private security firms aimed at stamping out "cowboy" operators were launched in London yesterday.

Their publication by the International Professional Security Association comes after growing concern about the lack of control over such firms, which has allowed people with criminal records to set up in the security business. The Home Office has repeatedly rejected calls for statutory regulations and has advocated self-regulation within the industry.

Mr Patrick Rabbitts, secretary of the association said: "The aim of the codes is to improve the industry and keep it at standards acceptable to industry and commerce and get out the unscrupulous characters. The cowboys are only a minority, but like the rotten apple in the barrel, it spreads."

"When members of industry and commerce pick up the telephone and ask for a security service, they can land up with a cowboy. If they ask if the firm is a member of the association it will be something which gives them insurance."

The association, which claims to be the leading British security organization, has 25,000 members and 15 regional councils in the United Kingdom, which check in the members.

Countryside remains popular

Suburban countryside had failed to divert family outings from remote beauty spots, Mr Adrian Phillips, director general of the Countryside Commission, said yesterday (our Environment Correspondent writes).

He was speaking at a London conference about research which showed that the attraction of the "urban fringe" had failed to protect more desirable countryside from tourist pressures.

The quarter of England's countryside which is considered "urban fringe" was seen in the early 1970s as a tourist conduit that would protect important conservation areas deep in the countryside from crowds of stateless and picnic parties.

Mr Phillips said that surveys of countryside on the edge of London showed that it was being used as an alternative to city parks and not to remote rural areas. Yet few families in the urban fringe had travelled more than three miles to it.

17,000 animals used in tests

Seventeen thousand animals were used in experiments as the Government's secret Chemicals Defence Establishment at Porton Down, Wiltshire, last year. About a quarter died.

The total, which includes mice, rats, guinea pigs, dogs, sheep, rabbits, pigs, and marmosets, is lower than in previous years, reflecting more tissue culture experiments which do not involve living animals.

The figures were released before an animal rights demonstration at Porton tomorrow by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection.

Winning pools stake stolen

A schoolgirl collector who stole football stake money was found out when a syndicate of women factory workers submitted a claim thinking they had won nearly £136,000, magistrates at Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, heard yesterday.

Helen Williams, of Pencoed, Bridgend, a Girl Guide patrol leader who at an earlier hearing admitted paying the syndicate's £3.30 weekly into her own bank account six times, was fined £80 for theft and ordered to pay £20 costs and £19.80 compensation.

Widen lorry bans councils told

The Government has told local councils in a circular to do more to keep heavy lorries out of towns and villages by imposing more lorry bans, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday.

The circular comes at a time when the Government is preparing to announce its decision on a future maximum size of heavy lorries. Mr Howell is expected to say in favour of a 40-ton limit, against the existing 32 tons.

Muggers injure woman aged 65

Mrs Irene Richardson, aged 65, was in hospital yesterday after two schoolboy muggers snatched her handbag containing £300 holiday money as she was walking home after a bingo session.

Richardson, of Oak Hill Flats, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, suffered a broken hip when the youths pushed her to the ground and dragged her as she tried to hold on to the bag.

Fan aged 13 dies in bus stoning

Alexander Linton, aged 13, a football supporter, of Easterhouse, Glasgow, died on the top-deck of a bus on Wednesday night after a gang of youth hurling stones at the bus and hit him. Police yesterday launched a murder inquiry.

The incident happened at the junction of Hallhill Road and Edinburgh Road after the game between Celtic and Dundee United.

New location for murder trial

The trial of a man accused of three murders was adjourned at Leeds Crown Court yesterday so that it can be heard outside Yorkshire. Andrew Mark Watson, aged 26, a labourer, of Wakefield Road, Garforth, West Yorkshire, has pleaded not guilty to all three murder charges and not guilty to three charges of conspiracy to prevent the burial of three bodies.

Paul Anthony Hobson, aged 26, a yard foreman, of Wakefield Road, Garforth, has pleaded guilty to the same charges. Sentence has been postponed until after Mr Watson's trial. The application for the trial to be switched from Leeds was made by Mr Watson's counsel.

سکتا نالاج

Restraint plea by Arafat after Israeli air raids

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, April 22

Mr. Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, has persuaded most of the extremist Palestinian leaders in Beirut not to respond to yesterday's Israeli bombing raid on Lebanon by restarting the conflict in southern Lebanon.

But the Palestinian-Israeli ceasefire — as arranged a truce — any arrangement in Lebanon — remains both tentative and dangerous with at least one PLO faction claiming that it no longer exists.

Mr. Arafat's efforts came after an indirect message from the American Government — reportedly to him by a Saudi diplomat and Mr. Chirif Wazzan, the Lebanese Prime Minister — warning him that any Palestinian attacks on the Kibbutzim of Northern Galilee would provide an excuse for the Israelis to stage a full-scale invasion of Lebanon.

It was primarily for this reason that the PLO responded to the Israeli raid by claiming that it would "retaliate" where and when it sees fit — a formula that clearly implies a Palestinian attack against Israel from Jordan or from inside the West Bank.

The PLO's more intransigent factions did their best to cloak their restraint with belated rage, but they found it difficult to conceal their intention of maintaining a truce — unilaterally, if necessary — in southern Lebanon.

The popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, for instance, announced that it is "going to strike against Israel from inside Israel and from outside Israel, and not necessarily from southern Lebanon."

This does not mean, however, that every PLO group will obey Mr. Arafat's instructions. The pro-Moscow Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has developed the habit of claiming responsibility for attacks on Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza. One more such claim in the next few days could be used by Israel as a pretext for further air attacks upon Lebanon.

In Southern Lebanon, officers of the PLO's Fatah guerrilla movement promised to follow Mr. Arafat's order, claiming that the Israelis were trying to appease the Jewish settlers refusing to leave the Sinai town of Yamit.

However, Israeli aircraft could be seen all day in the skies of southern Lebanon, watched by Palestinian anti-aircraft gunners on the coastal highway around Tyre.

During the morning, Israeli jets made their regular photo-reconnaissance run over Beirut, drawing the usual fire from the Palestinian camps.

The PLO permitted journalists to enter their base at Mazbouh, 19 miles from

Beirut, which was one of yesterday's bombing targets. Three heavy artillery pieces, several Katyusha rocket launchers and a number of cars had been destroyed in the raid. The Lebanese authorities now put the number of dead at 23.

In Damascus today, the Syrian government denounced yesterday's raids as "a barbaric attack" and Syrian state radio asserted that Syria would "confront any new Israeli move in Lebanon".

In the familiar rhetoric it uses on such occasions, the broadcast claimed that "Arab skies will not be open for enemy arrogance irrespective of costs, sacrifices or whatever it takes."

This was scarcely proved yesterday when two Syrian jets were shot down over the Bekaa Valley by Israeli aircraft.

The wreckage — both Mig 23s — were destroyed, although the pilots baled out by parachute, landing rather inconveniently in territory controlled by the right-wing Phalangist movement, who bear no love for Syria.

But the Phalangist leader, Mr. Bashir Gemayel, handed them over to the Lebanese authorities in Beirut last night with much pomp and publicity. It was the first time that the Syrians had put their Mig 23 fighter aircraft into combat over Lebanon.

Previously they have confronted the Israelis there only with veteran Mig 21 jets.



'World doctor' awarded Onassis prize

From Mario Modiano, Athens, April 22

Dr. Bernard Kouchner, the French physician who founded Doctors of the World, a society of volunteers who offered medical relief in distressed areas, and Professor Manolis Andronikos, the Greek archaeologist who discovered the royal tombs of Macedonia at Vergina. Today

received the Alexander Onassis prize for 1981 presented by President Karamanlis. The prizes carry a cash award of \$100,000 (£55,000). Dr. Kouchner, who received the Athenian prize for promoting "the rapprochement of peoples and upholding the dignity of man," said the

money would go, symbolically, to El Salvador and Afghanistan. Doctors of the World consists of volunteers, nurses and physicians who devote a few months of their lives to work without pay in places hit by disasters. They have worked in South-East Asia,

Central America, Africa, Afghanistan and Poland. Dr. Kouchner said: "For us oppression of the right and of the left is identical." Professor Andronikos received the Olympia prize awarded for contributions to the safeguarding of man's cultural heritage.

Ecevit men face death on plotting charges

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara, April 22

Two former deputies from Mr. Bulent Ecevit's former Republican People's Party appeared in a military court in Erzurum, eastern Turkey, today on capital charges of forcefully attempting to overthrow the constitutional order.

Mr. Erturol Gunay and Mr. Temel Ates, were detained in 1980 on charges of assisting the underground "Dev-Yol" (Revolutionary Path) organization in building up "liberated zones" in their constituency. They were released after 14 months in detention only to be re-arrested recently at the request of the Erzurum court.

Mr. Ecevit himself, detained earlier in the month over an alleged statement to a Norwegian newspaper, remains in custody here. Mr. Mustafa Ustundag, the former secretary-general of the party, and a number of leading party deputies are undergoing investigation.

So far, of the original 587 leaders, militants and sympathisers of the extreme right-wing Nationalist Action Party indicted at the current mass trial of the rightists, 187 have been released. Mr. Ecevit is also the subject of an investigation, along with 132 of his former deputies, over alleged support to the Marxist-oriented Progressive Trade Unions Confederation (Disk).

Brezhnev reappears in public looking fit

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, April 22

President Brezhnev reappeared in public today after an absence of almost a month, looking reasonably fit and showing no obvious signs of fatigue. Together with other Politburo members, he took part in a televised Kremlin ceremony commemorating the 112th anniversary of Lenin's birth.

The Soviet leader dropped out of public view on March 26, after a tiring trip to Central Asia, and Soviet sources suggested he was taken to hospital in Moscow suffering from exhaustion immediately after he returned from Tashkent.

As speculation on the state of his health mounted, no official word was given, although a Foreign Ministry official said that Mr. Brezhnev was taking a routine winter holiday.

During his absence, a stream of official telegrams and decrees continued to be issued in his name, and last week the Soviet leader replied to President Reagan's suggestion of a summit meeting in New York in June with a proposal for a summit in October.

His proposal, suggesting the Soviet leader has no intention of retiring in the summer as has been rumoured, was read out on television in advance of publication in Pravda to quash rumours circulating here last weekend that he was seriously ill or even dead.

Mr. Brezhnev did not speak during the Kremlin ceremony, and Soviet television, adept at turning its cameras away so as not to show any slowness of difficulty in his movements, did not show the Soviet leader rising or sitting down after the national anthem. But he appeared relaxed and attentive.

Mr. Konstantin Chernenko, a Brezhnev aide who has risen swiftly in recent months, sat beside Mr. Brezhnev, indicating he is now considered second in the Politburo hierarchy.

Mr. Andrei Kirilenko, aged 75, the longest-serving member of the Politburo apart from Mr. Brezhnev, who has not taken part in party functions for two months, was again absent today. Mr. Yuri Andropov, the head of the KGB security police, delivered the keynote speech at the rally.

In recent months Soviet officials have indicated growing irritation with the spate of rumours that now sweep Moscow with monotonous regularity as to the state of Mr. Brezhnev's health. It is a rumour on which they refuse to comment, and a Western diplomat, who asked about Mr. Brezhnev's health at a meeting in the Soviet Foreign Ministry recently, was met with an icy silence.

Most rumours start in the West and those of Mr. Brezhnev's demise appear to begin in Western stock exchanges.

Moro trial threat to 'tell truth'

From Peter Nichols, Rome, April 22

Terrorist suspects on trial in Rome on charges of the kidnapping and murder of Signor Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader, four years ago, today threatened the court that they might actually tell the truth.

The unchallenged leader of the 63 defendants, Mario Moretti, told reporters from his cage in the improvised courtroom: "Write that we have a lot to say about Moro and we shall say it at the right moment".

This was the third day of hearings in the case which is concerned also with some 12 other murders. Signor Moretti, who is accused of having interrogated Signor Moro and then to have given the order to shoot him, insisted today that the defendants wanted to determine themselves in which case they were to sit while following proceedings.

The court had laid down that the defendants should be subdivided according to sex and political connotation within the Red Brigades movement, from advocates of armed action to members of the more political wing of the movement, and those who had agreed to give evidence to the investigators.

The defendants accused the court of wanting to keep them out of the proceedings. Signor Moretti said that the court, on the orders of the Government, "is doing all it can not to have us here. He went on: 'But we want to be present because we have a lot to say. This is the reason why the judges want to have the trial without us'."

Having made their protest, the defendants abandoned proceedings, but not without a threat to the press: "Be careful what you write because we are tired of jokes."

Poles show hope in face of woe

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, April 22

Senior Polish officials today delivered a comprehensive account of the country's economic woes in speeches that were distinguished for their faith, hope and charity, the greatest of these being hope. Mr. Janusz Obodowski, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy, said that Poland wanted to pay back its debts to the West but needed short-term credits to do so.

Mr. Obodowski was speaking at the start of a two-day meeting of the plenary session of the Communist Party's central committee. He said that industrial production lagged far behind that of last year but a slight improvement was being registered from month-to-month.

The number of employed had dropped by 5 per cent in the first quarter of the year but productivity had increased by 6 per cent. Hope tinged with resentment was the keynote. Economic reform — giving enterprises more initiative — would consolidate the gradual improvements, but the recovery would take much longer than expected because of financial and trade sanctions against Poland by the West. Mr. Marian Wozniak, an alternative Politburo member, estimated that it could be as much as two years more. If the West wanted the Poland to sort out its debts it had to help.

Meanwhile it is understood that the Senate of Warsaw University has now approved four deputy rectors. Professor Franciszek Grucza, Professor Bartoszewicz, Professor Kaluzynski, all linguists, and Professor Szaflik, Dean of History, will be officially nominated on April 27. Students are planning a protest against the appointments of the regime-oriented professors.



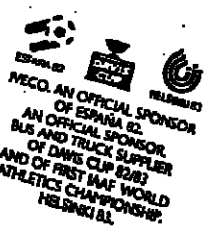
ONE TRUCK IN SIX HAS THE IVECO BADGE

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IVECO, A WORLD OF TRANSPORT





From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, April 22

Above him hung the Argentine flag in the capital, Port Stanley, which has been renamed yet again Puerto Argentino.

The official news-agency Telan said General Galtieri visited the Falklands in his dual capacity as head of state and Commander-in-Chief of the Army. Despite being confronted by crowds of reporters when he left the airport at Buenos Aires he maintained the almost total

There was no indication whom Señor Costa Mendez, regarded as one of the least influential members of the Cabinet, intended to meet during his stay.

Rear-Admiral Juan José Lombardo, Commander of the Southern Atlantic Operations, would become military commander of the city.

Eyewitnesses say that nine Hurcules 3130 are making between five and six trips daily between the city and the islands.

A programme was broadcast on the ships closed-circuit television this evening in which the crew were shown life-raft drill, survival in the freezing waters of the South Atlantic, and the rights of prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. Extracts from the article of our war

Islanders caught in

Bankers Trust Co.	35
Chemical Bank	30
Chibank	30

s fear being n crossfire

The two countries' maritime time boundary dispute, involving the French islands of St Pierre and Miquelon, off Canada's east coast, was also scheduled to be discussed, although no breakthrough appeared in sight. Mr Mac

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the last official British government report on the Falklands, published in 1976, said: "For Stanley, water is supplied from the 6,000 gallons per hour capacity filtration plant at Moody Brook to a reservoir and a high level tank with a combined capacity of 500,000 gallons."

Agentine reporters said the three were "in good condition physically" and "in good spirits". AFP and AP.

Another resolution introduced earlier this week by Senator Larry Pressler, a Republican from South Dakota, calling on the United States to condemn the invasion of the Falklands, urge

former President, said at dinner in Orange County, California: "If it becomes necessary to choose between friends — a very hard choice — there is question that the United States would and should, in my opinion, without question, support the British position".

The annual records suggest that temperatures will already be dropping to below -15°C to -6°C for much of the 24 hours. Snow will almost certainly be falling. Winds

Antarctic Survey said yesterday that the position must be one of acute discomfort for those in the summer field stations.

Research at South Georgia divides between the biological sciences, atmospheric sciences and geophysics, and oceanography. Work on Bird Island had been

South Georgia the first priority. It would put pressure on Argentina by convincing the Buenos Aires government that Britain means what it says. But it would involve some force, if not much, which could jeopardize the negotiations and — by so doing — displease

Lawyer cleared

San Francisco.—Mr. Lee Bailey, the defence lawyer, whose clients included Patricia Hearst, the kidnapped heiress, scored one of his biggest court victories here. He was acquitted of drunken driving after a two week trial.

The fire was caused by 60 mph winds blowing from the north. The fire in damage is estimated at \$100,000. The fire was caused by an electrical short circuit in the wiring of the building.

fallen power line.

100

Country	Percentage of population aged 65 and over in 1990
Australia	14.5
Canada	13.5
France	12.5
Germany	12.5
Italy	12.5
Japan	11.5
Sweden	11.5
Switzerland	11.5
United States	10.5

...and the fact that the *in vitro* and *in vivo* results are in good agreement.

CIA deputy director resigns

Washington. — Admiral Robert F. Imhoff is to resign as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the White House announced, expected to leave in the middle of the year and to be replaced by a civilian. Admiral Imhoff, 61, has been the agency's second in command since 1977. He was a naval aviator and a member of the CIA's National Security Council.

China restores residency

Peking. — China announced it planned to restore the post of ambassador to the United States. The move was seen as a sign of improved relations between the two countries. The last Chinese ambassador to the US was recalled in 1981.

Mauroy in talks with Trudeau

Ottawa. — Mr. Pierre Mauroy, Prime Minister of Quebec, is expected to meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in Ottawa. The meeting is part of a series of discussions between the two provinces.

Arab university reopened

Ramallah. — The Arab University in Ramallah, West Bank, has been reopened after a period of closure. The university was closed in 1981 due to security concerns.

Gambian leader dies in crash

Monrovia. — The late President of the Gambia, Sir David Njie, died in a plane crash. The crash occurred while he was en route to a meeting in London.

Cheaper by air — if you're Irish

Dublin. — A new airline service has been launched, offering cheaper flights for Irish citizens. The service is expected to attract a large number of passengers.

Volcanic cloud over Pacific

Honolulu. — A large volcanic cloud has been observed over the Pacific Ocean. The cloud is believed to be the result of a volcanic eruption in the region.

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Southern Africa in grip of drought

From Stephen Taylor
Harare (formerly Salisbury)
April 22

Drought is afflicting an enormous tract of land straddling the border between Zimbabwe and Botswana. The condition is not uncommon in the region but its effects are being felt with particular acuteness in both countries.

In Zimbabwe as many as 250,000 cattle will have to be moved east to better pasture or be slaughtered out of hand. Children in the affected area are having to receive supplementary food and the peasant maize crop has been devastated.

In Botswana the situation is even more serious. President Quett Masire has officially declared most of his country drought-stricken and has appealed for international aid. About 75 per cent of the 1981/82 crops, predominantly maize, has been lost, and the cattle which are the foundation of Botswana's meat and dairy economy face death in large numbers.

The drought comes at a particularly bad time for Botswana as foreign exchange has been depleted by a slump in prices for diamonds, nickel and copper, its other main exports. The situation in other black states of southern Africa is understood to be less serious. Zambia will probably have to import maize but it is not expected to result in any extreme of surplus or shortage; in Swaziland crops of sugar, cotton and maize will be reduced.

The affected area includes the provinces of North and South Matabeleland as well as the southern part of Victoria province in Zimbabwe. In Botswana it embraces the relatively heavily populated East, including the Francistown area, and the extreme North-West. While peasant farmers in the West of Zimbabwe are sorely afflicted, much of the country, including the best farming land in the centre and North, has missed the drought and the country will still have a surplus of maize for export.

The total crop is likely to be just over 1.6 million tonnes compared with almost three million tonnes produced by last year's bumper harvest. Much of last year's crop is still being held at depots around the country and of more concern is the sharp drop in the forecasts for the cotton (down by 27 per cent) and soya bean harvests.

□ Johannesburg: South Africa's maize crop is likely to be cut by nearly half this year, to eight million tons from 14.6 million tons last year because of the drought that has hit the so-called maize triangle of the Southern Transvaal and the Orange Free State provinces (Ray Kennedy writes).

There is still enough maize in the silos to supply South Africa's needs but the anticipation of a poor harvest this year means that farmers will demand a higher basic price from the Government which must accede because the farming vote is vital to the political survival of the ruling National Party.

1,500 leave homes in fire

Anaheim, California. — A state of emergency has been declared after a fire which forced 1,500 people out of their homes. Eight people were injured.

Schmidt conjures up party harmony

From Patricia Clough
Munich, April 22

Herr Helmut Schmidt and his fellow Social Democrats end their party congress tomorrow if not united, at least in harmony. The big question is, can they keep it up?

Despite emotional appeals by pacifist delegates, the congress was expected to back the Chancellor's stand on nuclear missiles and to reject a freeze on their employment during the United States-Soviet negotiations in Geneva.

The congress had obligingly complied with his pressing request not to approve a two-year moratorium on the building of nuclear power stations, while the Chancellor raised no protest as they called for tax increases which he knows he will never be able to push through.

The differences between the Chancellor and his left wing, and between the party leadership and much of the rank and file, remain but became muted in a general atmosphere of goodwill. The bitterness of the past month evaporated as everyone bent over backwards to avoid personal attacks.

Both sides refrained from blaming each other for the party's bad public image and dramatic loss of popularity. Herr Schmidt, the party chairman, had set the tone with conciliatory opening speeches. They followed it up with demonstrative body language — Herr Schmidt pointedly went and sat among provincial delegates to hear Herr Brandt's speech; Herr Brandt spent hours moving among the tables

back-slapping and shaking hands as though no shadow had fallen over the party. An important moment was an attempt at reconciliation between the Chancellor and his arch opponent, Herr Erhard Eppler, the SPD pacifist and ecological guru for whom he is said to feel nothing short of hatred.

Herr Eppler held out the olive branch by saying the Chancellor's speech had helped take the poison out of the atmosphere and the Chancellor replied with appreciative noises about Herr Eppler's political fairness. Herr Brandt had started off by calling for a new beginning, but four days later it was no clearer how the party should go about it.

After nearly 13 years in power SPD were unable to produce any new visions or ideas — certainly not ones which could be put into practice. Both Herr Brandt and Herr Schmidt proposed, and the congress seemed placidly to agree, that the government and party should play two different roles. The party should not expect that the government put into practice all its ideals while the government should concede that the party has aims way ahead of its own policies.

This was particularly evident when the congress called for tax increases and public investment to create more jobs, knowing quite well this was unacceptable to their Free Democratic coalition partners and to the Chancellor. Clearly few delegates imagined that it could be achieved, but the move was badly needed to improve the party's image as the champion of the workers.

In the lively missile debate, Herr Eppler's role as star of the pacifist wing was taken over by Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD leader in the Saarland, with a highly emotional harangue against the stationing of Nato's Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.



Flower power: Herr Brandt responds as he is reelected chairman of the Social Democratic Party

The stationing of Nato's Pershing 2 and cruise missiles. Herr Lafontaine was rewarded by the most enthusiastic applause awarded to any delegate and by election, along with Herr Eppler, to the party executive.

The atmosphere in the missiles debate was intense as speaker after speaker delivered passionate variations of all the arguments which everybody had heard innumerable times before. Clearly everyone had made up their minds already how they would vote but felt the need to let off steam on this highly controversial issue.

Mr Kehm's attorney claimed that Proctor and Gamble knew that the disease had been linked with tampon use, but rather than issue a warning, the company chose to continue marketing its Rely tampons as aggressively as ever. The tampons were withdrawn on September 22 two weeks after Mrs Kehm's death.

Dr Kris Davidson, of the University of Minnesota, said that the explosion of Eta Carinae could give off more light than the combined brilliance of all the other stars.

Dr Davidson, together with Dr Nolan Walborn, and Dr Theodore Gull, of the Goddard Space Centre in Maryland, have been observing the star from the Cerro Tololo inter-American observatory in Chile.

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US tampon company liable for death

From Our Correspondent
New York, April 22

The Procter and Gamble international conglomerate has been ordered to pay for the first time damages to a victim of toxic shock, caused by use of their Rely tampons. A jury in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, found that the company was liable for the death of Mrs Patricia Kehm in 1980, and ordered it to pay her husband Michael \$300,000 (£166,000).

The company took some comfort from the fact that it was not ordered to pay punitive damages, saying it confirmed its position "that the company has acted responsibly throughout the toxic shock syndrome controversy". But it added that it was considering an appeal because "we are confident that our product did not cause this woman's tragic illness".

The company now faces 400 other suits which have been awaiting the outcome of Mr Kehm's case. They could prove to be extremely expensive. Mr Kehm's attorney claimed that Proctor and Gamble knew that the disease had been linked with tampon use, but rather than issue a warning, the company chose to continue marketing its Rely tampons as aggressively as ever. The tampons were withdrawn on September 22 two weeks after Mrs Kehm's death.

Supergiant star to explode 'any day'

From Michael Hamlyn
New York, April 22

A blue supergiant — the largest star in our galaxy — is due to explode into a supernova any day now, cosmologically speaking. The giant is Eta Carinae and the expected explosion will be so bright that it will be visible in daylight.

Such a phenomenon has not been seen from earth since 1604. But because cosmic time is so long "any day now" could mean either next week or 10,000 years hence. In fact, as Eta Carinae is 9,000 light-years away, the explosion could already have happened.

A blue supergiant is one of the most luminous stars. They are far larger than other stars — like the Sun — and they burn up their hydrogen at a far faster rate. Their expected lifespan is two or three million years. When their fuel is exhausted, they suddenly swell to huge size and explode, with a resultant glow that lasts for weeks.



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EEC farm prices accord paves way for budget

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg, April 22

A record increase in earnings for Europe's eight million farmers has all but been agreed by EEC agriculture ministers meeting here. What still stands in the way of a final settlement is the question of how much Britain should pay into the Community budget, and this is next due to be discussed by foreign ministers meeting here next Tuesday.

Given the facts that Britain will not agree a package until the budget issue is settled, the agriculture ministers today suspended their meeting provisionally until next Wednesday to await the outcome of these parallel negotiations.

It is already clear, however, that Britain has abandoned its hard-line position on a number of agricultural issues and this may well make it easier for it to achieve a budget deal that would be satisfactory.

During the past three days of the meeting the question of prices has not even been discussed in the open sessions. Nevertheless, Mr Paul de Keersmaecker, the Belgian President of the Council, made soundings among all the delegations. He was able to report afterwards that "with some minor changes" Commission proposals for increases averaging 10.5 per cent were universally acceptable.

This would be the highest single price rise ever agreed for the EEC's farmers. It is



Mr Buchanan-Smith: Soft line from Britain.

significantly above the 5 to 6 per cent increase the British Government had privately hoped could be agreed and it calls into question the idea Britain so strongly backed of creating a prudent price policy for agriculture.

Commission estimates given to delegations at the meeting show that their proposals would add about £37m to agricultural spending. Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, handling the negotiations, backed Herr Josef Ertl, the West German Minister, in questioning the commission intensely on this point.

"We think their assumptions in many cases are far too optimistic," Mr Buchanan-Smith said afterwards. British experts are to

spend the time until the next meeting investigating just how realistic the commission estimates are. Even so, Britain has accepted assurances from the Commission that spending can still be contained within the community's own resources, up to the per cent value-added tax ceiling.

Nor did he disagree with the Belgian Minister's view that a solution was in sight to the vexed problem of helping small dairy farmers.

Mr Buchanan-Smith said everybody now accepted that something had to be done for these small farmers and what was needed was agreement on how best that help should be given. This is in marked contrast to the outright refusal by Britain earlier this year to accept any scheme which would encourage small farmers to add to the milk surplus.

The other outstanding problems identified by Mr de Keersmaecker were adjustment of the green currency rates, marketing of Mediterranean products including wine, and possible special measures to help Greece contend with its high inflation rate.

It is to be left to Mr de Keersmaecker, who as Belgium's joint agriculture and European Affairs minister, will be present at the budget discussions next week, to take a final decision on when to resume the meeting.



India's roadside justice

Anarchy on the roads is an enduring nightmare in India. But something is being done at last. Mobile courts, as seen above, are being set up as part of a novel concept: strict enforcement of the traffic laws (Trevor Fishlock writes from Delhi).

India's roads are among the most dangerous and frightening in the world. Drivers are reckless and fatalist, and pay scant attention to other road users, laws and road conditions.

The behaviour of bus drivers, for example, is an acknowledged national scandal. Bus crashes with large death tolls are commonplace. Many drivers are untrained, unlicensed and inexperienced. Lorry drivers, too, strike fear into other road users. Many of them, as

they hurtle towards another vehicle, make it a point of pride to swerve only at the last instant. Wrecked lorries litter the country's highways.

People often drive the wrong way around a roundabout or against the traffic flow. For many, it seems, traffic lights are purely decorative. Pedestrians and cyclists are given little consideration.

In Delhi the new chief of the police traffic department, Superintendent Kiran Bedi, is determined to put some order into the chaos. She calls Delhi's traffic "totally undisciplined" and is seeing that the law is more rigorously enforced. Hence the courts set up on the capital's roadsides. Magistrates can impose fines of up to 1,000 rupees (£58).

Guns before butter

Pacifism is a dirty word in Russia

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, April 22

Almost every day Soviet newspapers report with approval the growing strength of western peace movements. Television shows demonstrations against nuclear weapons and carries interviews with disarmament body campaigners. "There is in western Europe virtually no place free from anti-militarist sentiments", *Izvestia* said recently.

But any such sentiment is quickly and firmly suppressed at home. Indeed the Russians make it clear that they will not tolerate any questioning of their own nuclear arsenal, and have recently stepped up the campaign to inculcate a sense of "patriotic duty" in young people. As in East Germany, officials have expressed fears that "anti-militarist propaganda is beginning to backfire. There is no place for pacifism in the Soviet Union. The product is strictly for export to the West."

The authorities do all they can to prevent Russians equating military preparations at home and abroad. The language used is different: whereas western policies are "militarist", "aggressive" and "expansionist", Soviet defence is invariably linked with patriotism, the strengthening of peace and repelling imperialist aggression.

Detailed descriptions are given of the West's nuclear might, its power to obliterate mankind and its debates on strategy and survival. No word is ever allowed out about Soviet strategy, military preparedness or nuclear arsenal.

The press acknowledges only "sufficient" weapons to give any adversary a "resolute rebuff". The Soviet leadership, after long hesitation, recently authorized release of the number of nuclear missiles it admitted to deploying, but such is military secrecy that these were referred to only by their Nato-given names—SS4, SS5 and SS20.

Any form of western pacifist movements is carefully edited to show protests only against western weapons. Nuclear disarmers who arrive in Moscow are unable to speak in public of Soviet weapons, or display banners calling on the Kremlin to dismantle its missiles.

Pacifism has long been condemned by party propagandists. The 1978 edition of the *Soviet Military Encyclo-*

pædia describes it as "a scientific movement in the Soviet Union, but it is a fully organized government body which lobbies for Soviet disarmament initiatives and encourages support at home for official foreign policy."

There is no spontaneous movement for unilateral disarmament, nor any other independent manifestation of anti-militarism, but there does appear to be a growing dislike of the military demands placed on each citizen. National service is very unpopular, and cases have been reported of mothers lobbying recruiting boards to prevent their sons being sent to Afghanistan.

The trend has already worried the authorities. Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, chief of the Soviet General Staff and Deputy Defence Minister, in a recent booklet aimed at mass readership, called for a decisive struggle by propaganda workers to fight "complacency and elements of pacifism" among Soviet youth.

In spite of calls for greater military vigilance, there is little evidence of widespread pacifist feeling. A British peace delegation that came here in January was saddened to find that while Russians quickly condemned the military build-up in the West, they could not level their own armaments could threaten any other country.

But as the Russians feel more and more threatened by the tough line coming from Washington and endorsement by enemies, they are determined to keep up their defences at whatever cost.

Military spending is estimated to be growing by about 4 per cent a year, but as the faltering Soviet economy slows down, this will bite ever deeper into the budget for consumer goods. The leadership will always put guns before butter, but it is anxious to ensure that rising discontent, especially among the young, at the low level of consumer goods is not translated into calls for cuts in the defence budget.

Pravda told ideological workers last year to root out any traces of pacifism occasionally found in instructional and propaganda materials. Those, it appears, are for use overseas.

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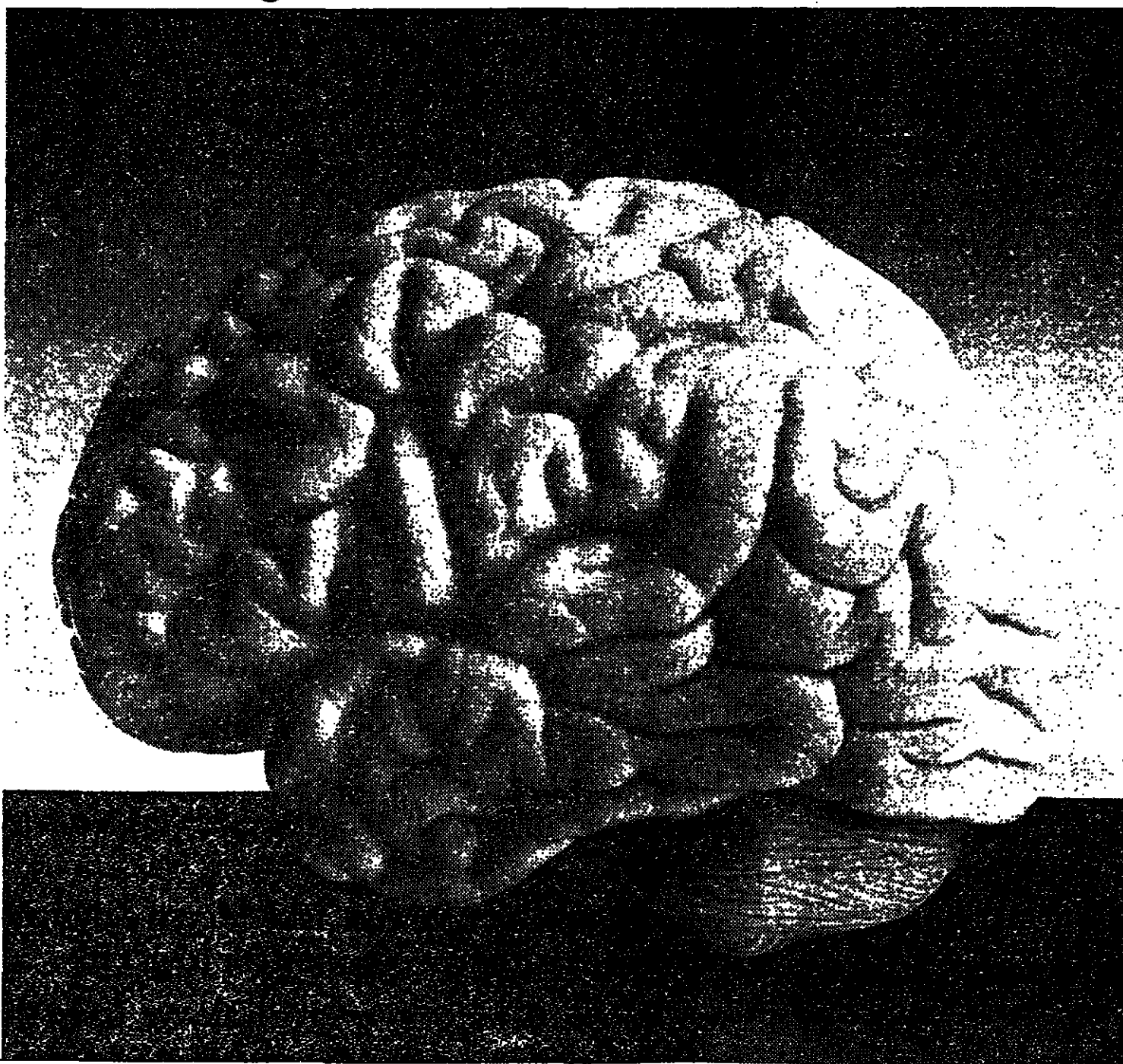
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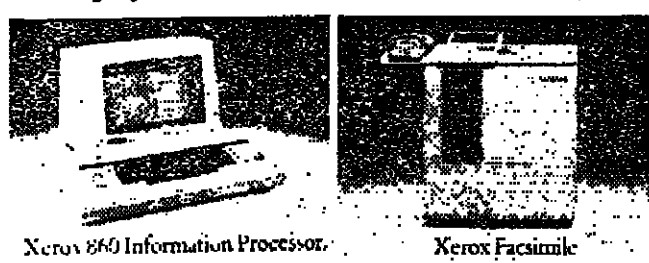
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UN tries to help Third World cities

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, April 22

The urban population in developing countries is expected to more than double over the next 20 years, putting city services under increasing stress and making the poor suffer most of all. There are now 800 million "poor" people in the world with incomes of less than £50 a year. Many of the poorest of them are living in cities and towns, often in shanty areas with minimal facilities.

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements—Habitat—founded in 1976 after the first United Nations conference in Human Settlements in Vancouver is deeply concerned with the problems involved in raising housing standards in the fast-growing cities and towns of the developing world.

Habitat, which has its headquarters in Nairobi, is holding its annual conference here next week, starting on Monday, attended by representatives of most of the world's governments.

Habitat, like its sister organization, the United Nations Programme for Development, is itself facing problems, mainly of finance. Dr Arvo Kananen, its executive director, says that Habitat's work programme needs about \$m in extra-budgetary contributions from governments, and he is appealing for more finance. He is puzzled by a suggestion of the general assembly that, as part of a general review of United Nations expenditure, Habitat should increase its efforts in seeking finance for housing services, but should cut down its work in developing more economic and efficient housing techniques and the planning of settlements.

For this year's conference, Habitat has prepared studies on urban and rural transport because, it points out, too costly transport systems limit the working ability of millions of poor people.

"Current rural transport policy, oriented mainly towards the provision of trunk roads and feeder roads, often built to a high standard of design is inappropriate, and should be reformulated," he says. "The rural poor should be provided with essential access facilities and the development of appropriate (low-cost) vehicles for use both on and off the farm should be promoted."

There should be less emphasis on developing high-cost central city areas, and more on building up the "informal" economy. The United Nations plans to designate 1987 as the international year of shelter for the homeless.

Greeks free 500 to ease jail crisis

From Mario Modiano Athens, April 22

To ease prison congestion and relieve the serious backlog of court cases in Greece, the Socialist Government has passed a law suspending all jail sentences up to one year and dropping charges on all minor offences punishable by up to one year's imprisonment.

This has caused the Greek prison population of 8,000 to drop by 500 and 300,000 cases have been shelved.

The implementation of the new legislation, however, stumbled on a ruling of the Athens Appeal Court which held that the law was unconstitutional because it forbade amnesties for common offences, the law was unconstitutional.

The Appeal Court set a precedent and many courts followed suit by rejecting the invocation of the new law whenever a lawyer insisted that his client qualified for this reprieve. Other tribunals, however, disagreed, and the state prisons opened their gates to let out inmates who qualified.

The affair was fast developing into a muddle that was giving the Greek judges far more headaches than the law had caused to cure.

The confusion was ended by the Supreme Court recently when a plenary of the 25 judges decided that the law was constitutional and therefore valid. Their ruling is binding on the lower courts.

The case that prompted the ruling involved Mr Constantine Despotopoulos, a university professor who decided to make a test case of his refusal to swear an oath before an examining magistrate.

Greek penal procedure excuses atheists from taking an oath in court. They can give their word of honour instead. Mr Despotopoulos insisted on doing the same on the ground that it was blasphemous and profane to take an oath to God. Curiously enough the Greek church agrees with him. Two Greek courts so far have ruled against the professor and sentenced him to one month in jail. It was hoped that the Supreme Court would have given a final ruling. But the judges did not delve into the substance of the controversy, they simply dismissed the case involving the new law. The Supreme Court decided that the new law was fully constitutional as it did not involve an amnesty but a suspension of sentences which could be revived within one year. The defendant was irreversibly sentenced to a prison term of two months or more or a fine of at least £400.

Moscow, April 22

Radia describes it as "a scientific but now as 'the time of its inception' he the 1930's".

There is of course a large movement in the Soviet Union, but it is a fully-sized government lobby for disarmament initiative; for Soviet acquiesces support at home or official foreign policy.

There is no spontaneous movement for unilateral disarmament on any other independent manifestation of unilateralism, but grows appears to be, then, is likely of the military elements placed on each citizen.

National service is very popular, and cases have been reported of mothers recruiting their sons before they turn their sons being sent to Afghanistan.

The trend has already furnished the authorities chief of the Department of Staff and Deputy General Director, in a recent limited mass reading, called for a decisive struggle against "compliance with elements of pacifism" among Soviet youth.

In spite of calls for greater military vigilance, there is little evidence of widespread activist feeling. A British peace delegation that arrived in January was surprised to find that with occasional quick reactions to military buildups, the press, they could not believe their own armaments could threaten any other country.

But the Russians feel more and more threatened by a much more concrete American posture and encirclement strategy as they are determined to keep up their arms race to never stop.

According to a leading economist, growing by about 10 percent a year, but as the economy grows, so will the arms race. The Russian economy grows, and always more arms are produced. It is not a matter, but it is a fact that the arms race is growing along with the economy. The level of the arms race is not transitory, but it is in the nature of the arms race.

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Greeks free 500 to ease jail crisis

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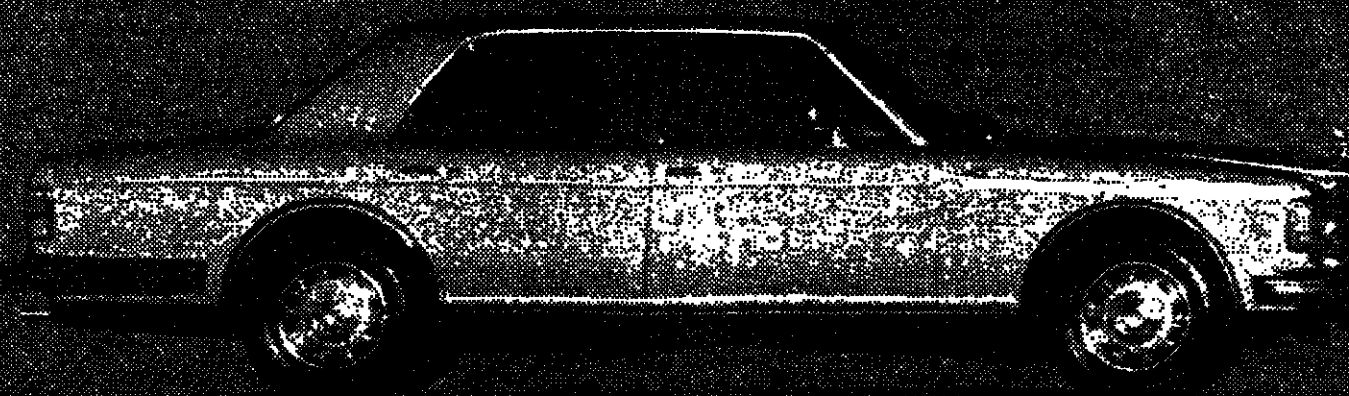
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SOME THINGS THAT HAVEN'T CHANGED

Last Monday we promised to show readers of The Times the changes that have made the 1982 Silver Spirit the most advanced carever to carry the Rolls-Royce name.

One other virtue of the car is worth mentioning—and that a less fashionable one. It is conservatism,

wit a small c.

It still takes one man one day to make the Rolls-Royce radiator. It still takes him five hours to polish it. And the man who wrought this unique piece of sculpture still demonstrates his pride of craftsmanship by engraving his initials on the back of

the gleaming finished product.

Rolls-Royce still employ specialists – leather workers, tinsmiths, cabinet makers, seamstresses, the best of their kind in the world – to do by hand and eye what machines cannot do.

It still takes over three months to make a Silver Spirit.

And it is still true that every car that leaves the factory is, in a thousand subtle ways, different from every other.

These things are so, not just because Sir Henry Royce decreed them, but because this kind of single-minded perfectionism is the only way

to make the best of anything in the world.



Romantic conventions turned upside down

Passione d'Amore (AA)

Minema

The Grass is Singing (A)

Screen on the Hill

Maeve

JCA Cinema

The Border (X)

Plaza I

The Challenge (X)

Classic, Oxford Street; Scene, Leicester Square

The strangest, or at least the most evocative, event of the movie week occurred not in a cinema but in Christies' South Kensington sale rooms, where they sold the supreme relic of a whole lost era of romance — a silk shirt worn by Rudolph Valentino in his last film, *The Son of the Sheik*. This was the swan song of the mad romantic passion that flowered uniquely on the silent screen. Only weeks after he had donned this shirt to play the mysterious desert charmer, Achmed, Valentino was dead, at 31; sound films had been born; and audiences had put aside the old erotic romance, in the name of a new sophistication.

And so this icon of a long-lost age, still exquisite (in 1926 its silk and embroidery had cost \$150) surfaced in Kensington. It had been treasured in the intervening years by a Miss Maria Carmina Elliott, founder of the Rudolph Valentino Association. Now it was sold for £380. It went not to a museum or national institution but to a buyer who told bystanders he intended to use it "in his act". This could mean a lot of things of course, among them the certain immolation of the relic. The silk is now as fragile as cobweb: an evening's wear and a trip to the same-day cleaners will translate it to Pharoahic dust and fading memory.

The point of *Passione d'Amore*, the latest film of Ettore Scola, is an intriguing upturning of the romantic convention. It is adapted from a story, *Fosca*, by the nineteenth-century Milanese writer Ignazio Ugo Tarchetti. Tarchetti belonged to a bohemian group known as the Scapigliatura, who set themselves in opposition to the illusions and romanticism of the Risorgimento spirit. Born in 1839, his disillusion had begun as a teenager soldier in the Crimea. His stories express a fascination with deformity of mind and body and with death. *Fosca* was left unfil-



Personification of ugliness: Valeria d'Obici and Bernard Giraudeau

ished at Tarchetti's own death in 1883, from the combined effects of tuberculosis and typhus, and was completed by a friend, Salvatore Farina.

Giorgio (Bernard Giraudeau) is a dashing young cavalry officer in the dog days of peace following the Risorgimento. Stationed at Piedimonte, he falls in love with a beautiful young married woman, Clara (Laura Antonelli), and chafes at their separation when he is posted to a distant border garrison. Frequently entertained in the home of his new colonel, Giorgio is intrigued by the unseen presence of the colonel's young cousin, Fosca, confined to her room by constant sickness. Finally however, he meets her, only to be appalled by her ugliness. But Fosca (Valeria d'Obici) has fallen in love with Giorgio and pursues him with a fury in which passion and hysteria are indistinguishable, and which leads to the inevitable ruin of several lives.

When the film was shown at the Cannes Festival last year, the jury gave Scola the ultimate backhander, an award for "the body of his work"; and it is clear enough why they thus evaded considering the film itself for a prize. It lingers too long; Scola's own attitude to ugliness is not as well defined in the film, which sometimes takes on the look of a freak show, as in his accompanying literary statements ("I wanted to tell not about the privileged, but about the humiliated, the marginal, the emigrants, homosexuals or, as here, a woman mortified because of her ugliness).

Ugliness weighs on the hearts of many women like a great pain, a condemnation to exist on the edges of life but not to live. It is only too clear, also, that Valeria d'Obici is by no means unattractive, though she courageously makes the attempt to convey Fosca's physical repellence.

But, despite Cannes' wariness, the fascination of Tarchetti's anecdote, and of his exploration of the ultimate attraction of ugliness, survives. At its best — the opening scenes in Piedimonte, the oppressive house, haunted by the presence of the unseen Fosca — the film is decorative and atmospheric; and the performances of the principals, as well as those of Jean Louis Trintignant, Massimo Girotti, and Bernard Blier at least, deserve better than the coarse dubbing.

Doris Lessing was in vogue with first-time feature film-makers last year. David Gladwell directed *Memoirs of a Survivor*; and a documentary director, Michael Raeburn, filmed Lessing's early work, of 1950, *The Grass is Singing*, as a Zambian-Swedish co-production.

The insuperable problem of the film is the adaptation and dialogue, written by the director himself. Poor John Thaw, because he does most of the talking, is the worst victim, as the honest, unlucky white African farmer who unwisely takes a wife from the bush. Karen Black, required to portray the central theme of the wife's breakdown and degeneration under the strains of this alien new

environment, has no easier job: she starts so near the bottom of the hill — with her ill-nature, racial fears and general obtuseness — that she has not very far to go down it before she arrives at her awful *Blanche Du Bois* mad scene.

From time to time, when the actors are momentarily spared their terrible stilted dialogue, there are moments of atmosphere or visual effect which suggest what could have been — Miss Black tormentingly aroused by the sight of a specially detested Kaffir servant bathing naked; a bizarre scene of the same house-boy dressing her, after her ultimate collapse; the general period feel which Raeburn and his designer Disley Jones evoke, in this land of strange cultural collision.

Maeve is another first feature that suffers from inept writing and discipline, and proves that a muddle of intentions does not amount to a complexity of content or structure (which is the defence its makers would presumably offer for it). It should have been more interesting. Far Murphy, the writer and co-director, with John Davies, is an Irish Republican, and her purpose was to investigate, through her central character Maeve Sweeney, aspects and attitudes of life in Ulster today. Her method shunts awkwardly between direct narrative, documentary, flashback memory (made confusing because it is touch and go whether you recognize the girl in the past as Maeve herself), direct-to-camera monologue and political lecture. Much more skill

was needed to consolidate these different elements, and more steadiness to achieve any real historical analysis.

Again there are excellences which aggravate regret for the failures: moments when the bizarre realities of Belfast are vividly brought to life, and rivetingly good performances by Mary Jackson, Brid Brennan and Trudy Kelly as respectively Maeve, her sister Roisin and her mother Ellen. The film was financed by the British Film Institute Production Board.

The return of Tony Richardson to the screen is welcome; and *The Border* provides him with the kind of subject — a mixture of anger and humane commitment — that has often brought out his best work. This it must be admitted is not his best, though, and in any event gravely handicapped by the wholly inappropriate happy end apparently tacked on by the film company — no doubt on the correct assumption that the sombreness of the film would be unappealing to audiences and on the wrong assumption that a silly ending would make it somehow more attractive.

Jack Nicholson plays Charlie, a Los Angeles cop hustled by his silly and demanding wife (Valerie Perrine) into taking a job with the El Paso border patrol. The task of the patrol is to prevent desperate Mexican peasants from illegally crossing the border to find work and a living in America. Nicholson's growing realization of the corruption in the service, and the marketing of human lives and happiness for money, is not unconnected with his interest — more paternal, seemingly, than sexual — in a beautiful young girl among the outcasts.

As ever the trouble is in the script, which spells out everything — the villainy of the villains, the cause-and-effect of the wife's demands and the man's financial temptation — thumpingly. Nor does Richardson (for whom the obvious has always been a lure) minimise this crudity in the script in his heavy-handed pictures of the home life and habits of the lumpen west.

John Frankenheimer's *The Challenge* exemplifies two of Hollywood's particular frailties — the inclination to expend huge resources of money and talent (in this case it includes the great Japanese actor Toshiro Mifune) on stories of infantile foolishness; and pretension that in this instance makes great display of Japanese chivalric lore, while reducing it to the level of the soap pulp.

The story hardly merits notice: a rigmarole about a quarrel over some ceremonial swords between a traditionalist martial artist and his bad new-world tycoon brother; and how (very improbably) the warrior accepts a dim Yankee adventurer (Scott Glenn) as his Number One Son. Since the old warrior has a beautiful battling daughter, the rest is, from early on, all too obvious. David Robinson

Television

Sourly comic notion

"I settled for cocoa and not champagne," mutters a bored housewife in *Bird of Prey* (BBC 1). That is often one's own reaction to yet another BBC "thriller": it would come as a nice surprise if, for once, the drinks were mixed. The series which began last night seems to have managed it: cocoa and champagne might not be to everyone's taste but it is better than plain cocoa.

Bird of Prey is described as a "thriller for the electronic age", which ordinarily means that they just change the sets. But here we are whirled into a world of computers: they are so often described as our servants that they have decided to do the living for us. In this first episode, massive bank frauds are being executed by "computer accounting" and the criminals involved are suitably disembodied, high-grade technicians controlled by a mysterious European organization known as "The Power". They are the alchemists of the late twentieth century: they can turn paper into gold.

But we are still old-fashioned enough to prefer our heroes to be constructed out of flesh and blood, and Harry is nothing if not flesh. Played here by the excellent Richard Griffiths, he is a principal scientific adviser at the Department of Commercial Development. Plump, amiable, like the famous bear with no brain, he believes his grand title by not having the faintest idea what is happening to him. Only by a series of bewildering accidents does he find himself on the track

of an international conspiracy. Strong stuff, and Harry raises his head slowly, a tortoise in pace. If that were all, it would be familiar enough: a combination of *The Ipcress File* and *Space Invaders*. But the director and writer have beaten the "electronic age" at its own game by overshadowing the electronic aspects of the narrative with a comic and resolutely downbeat plot. Harry's wife is an amateur potter and something of an amateur wife as well. "The most exciting thing that is going to happen to you," she says, "is that you'll go bald". But she is wrong: he goes to ground instead, chased by conspirators and policemen so "beast" they can see the shine on their trousers.

The programme retains its credibility because, although on one level it concerns European masterminds and international hardware, its atmosphere remains parochially seedy. It is filmed in a London of damp streets and rotting warrens — murky, rusty, older than computers. The characters have that tatty, down-at-heel air which London is uniquely able to provide — all of them marked by those "little failures of nerve" which are supposed to be Harry's epitaph. But Harry, meanwhile, has grown wings and become a chubby avenging angel. It is at once a sour and comic vision — but, like cocoa and champagne, it makes an interesting mixture.

Peter Ackroyd



Richard Griffiths as Henry, with Sally Faulkner

Music of Eight Decades

Triumph in its time

BBCSO/Pritchard

Festival Hall/Radio 3

If every concert of twentieth century music were like Wednesday night's, there would be no need for special promotion. This was the sixth evening in the South Bank's season of "Music of Eight Decades", and admittedly it took no chances: the newest work was Britwistle's *The Triumph of Time*, which in the 10 years of its life has thoroughly established its ability to speak of death, of the awesome funeral march of the hours, and of the equally unstoppable survival of imagination to anyone willing to listen. But if such concerts were indeed the norm, we should have started up a "basic of other centuries" series to give Beethoven and Tchaikovsky a chance.

The Britwistle performance, at the start, was a triumph indeed, suggesting that the work itself was growing, not receding, as time passes. Maybe it is simply that there have been few orchestral pieces in the last decade to match it. Or maybe it was the playing that made the programme so bleak and fascinating, filled with mournful solos from the cor anglais, with rolling brass landscapes and with the grating crunch of metal percussion and wind.

After this came another

memorial, Berg's Violin Concerto. Pierre Amoyal made it clear right from the start that the "Angel" of the composer's dedication was a living, breathing human being, for to the orchestra's credit, beyond the music, he responded by leaning this way and that. He was never so free again, but he had no need to be: he made himself the voice of the work, forceful and direct, a baritone succeeding powerfully where a soprano, that usually favours the castrato.

Possibly it was the lingering influence of the Berg, but the second movement of Ives's fourth symphony, which I have always heard before as a raucous and noisy march, seemed this time a bitter parody, each wave of activity more manically off-beat than the last. The weight was now shifted to the third movement, no pedestrian fugue but music of visionary intensity rising to strong, glowing excitement, and preparing for, not merely delaying, a finale before an exuberant circus of march, parlour song and ragtime, seemed this time a bitter parody, each wave of activity more manically off-beat than the last. The weight was now shifted to the third movement, no pedestrian fugue but music of visionary intensity rising to strong, glowing excitement, and preparing for, not merely delaying, a finale before an exuberant circus of march, parlour song and ragtime, seemed this time a bitter parody, each wave of activity more manically off-beat than the last. 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Is this the best way to bury the Green Giant?

by Simon Jenkins

Ever since the last war, London property developers have been asking architects to get rid of the old, and getting hideously silly answers. The tapering spires which gave pre-1940s London the appearance of floating above the Thames basin have been submerged. In their place has come none of the romance of Manhattan's skyscraper clusters. Instead we have a landscape of broken stumps of buildings, misshapen shoeboxes-abusing their surroundings and devoid of any capacity to elevate the spirit.

Last July Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, tried to put an end to this syndrome. He rejected a 500ft tower, nicknamed the Green Giant, mischievously proposed for the south end of Vauxhall Bridge by a parliamentary colleague, Mr Keith Wickenden of European Ferries. It was a decision of some courage and it makes past capitulations to commercial pressure on the skyline (most lamentably by Harold Macmillan over the Hilton and Shell towers) all the more gratuitous. The Green Giant, said Mr Heseltine, would be "massive and overbearing" and should not be built, he was right.

Instead he announced an architectural competition for a combined site extending on both sides of the southern approach to the bridge. 12 acres with a construction value of some £90m and one of the largest and most valuable sites still left in central London. Situated opposite the Tate Gallery, upstream of Parliament and downstream of Chelsea, it is also one of the most visually sensitive. Mr Heseltine was in effect declaring a public contest, with a prize of £50,000, to open a new era in British public architecture.

He had done an exciting thing.

He then promptly all but undid it. The developers, Mr Ronald Lyon and his backers, Shaikh Khaled bin Mahfouz and the Kuwaiti Artco Bank, were allowed a floor area/site ratio of 2.5:1 against the local Lambeth planners' brief of a 2:1 maximum. In addition, almost a quarter of the development had to be of architecturally cosmetic housing and "leisure amenities", effectively increasing yet further the bulk of the offices. This was a devastating requirement ensuring the worst of both worlds. It meant that whatever else the content was bound to be "massive and overbearing".

There was to be no scope for genuine alternatives; no question of a smaller scale of development, of breaking the site up into variegated owners, uses or treatments; no planning radicalism; no enterprise zones on quarter-acre plots; no flexibility to consider a variety of commercial uses. This was to be old-fashioned comprehensive development, the attitude of mind which brought upon the Elephant and Castle, St Paul's Precinct and the continuing catastrophe of the Barbican.

Faced with this prospect the first temptation must be to run away and scream. Mutations of concrete, glass and steel are now almost certain to glare down at the gentle streets of South Lambeth and Pimlico. And we had all better grit our teeth and bear it. The eight short-listed competition entries are now huddling in a temporary exhibition tent in a corner of Vauxhall Cross as if ashamed to show their faces in public. And although we are given the names of the winning teams, only with illicit ingenu-

ity can some of them be matched to the models and photomontages, all coyly anonymous. What on earth are we to make of them? I must admit that under all the circumstances they are fascinating. The planning brief has inevitably produced vastness, but it has not destroyed originality. I assume most credit for this goes to the architect David MacCormac who is on the three-man assessment panel. And the Tate Gallery opposite could do worse than accept the eight as a monumental festschrift to post-war "developers' architecture" in celebration of a near-extinct species.

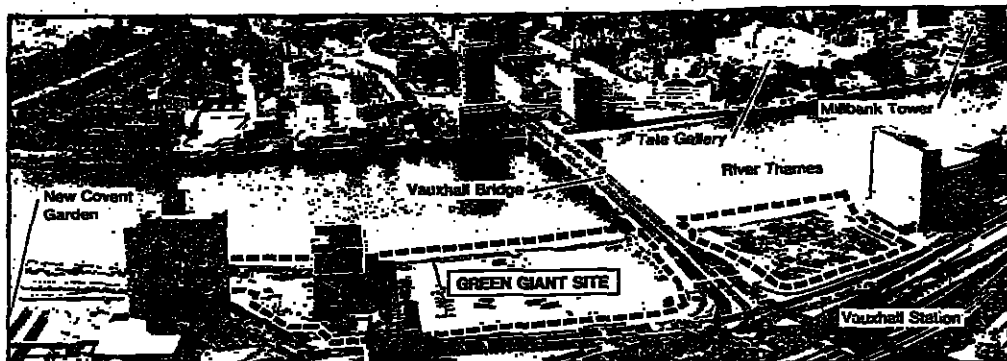
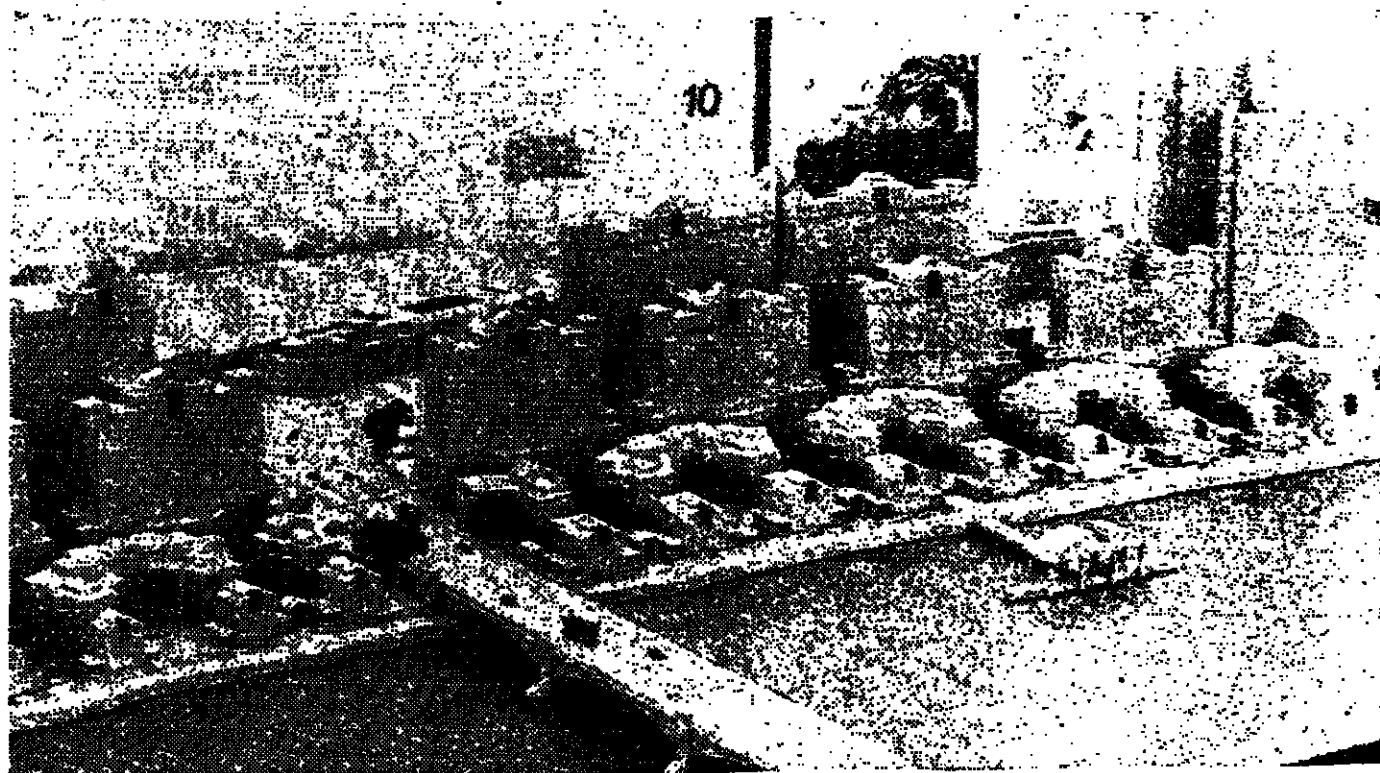
All the Post-modernist styles are gathered in attendance, though sadly none represented by their originators. There is "High Tech" (scheme A) with the visible service ducts, metal frames and drooping greenery of the Norman Foster/Richard

Rogers school. There is Beaux-Arts revival (G), complete with Philip Johnson's "Chippendale" pediments. Scheme H has twin towers looking like Cape Kennedy space-shuttle silos. Scheme D is apparently an exercise in council-estate renaissance. Scheme E is a huge pile of Cote d'Azur zigzags of the sort now considered de rigueur for all high-density marina developments. And for good measure the judges have included scheme C, a set of extraordinary neo-Stalinist wedding cake turrets straight from the banks of the Moscow river. There are chevron patterns, cliff walls, grids, podia and useless expanses of walkway: in short anything and everything to rid the mind of the hated point blocks and curtain walls. From the architecture of the shoebox we have leaped in one bound to that of the Mad Hatter's tea-party.

It is now likely that one of these will be built. So if we must have gigantism on the South Bank, let it at least be truly stunning. If architecture is to be forced by planners to hallow at public, let it do so with as much style and wit as it can muster. I enjoyed scheme A — the "High Tech" — with its light glass towers topped with engineering-as-decoration and surrounded by steeped blocks of reflecting glass. It has levity and dash and is unmistakably of the 1980s.

The twin amphitheatres (E), I assume by Nicholas Lacey, have similar flair. They take the river bank and swirl it round towards Chelsea with a great soaring and plunging outline: the hanging gardens of Vauxhall. Lacey also sets two monster semi-circular blocks to guard the bridge approach, as if warning that southwards "Here be dragons".

The Green Giant site (left), across the river from the Tate, and plan G (above), the 'monumental joke' which might be chosen from the eight competition finalists.



David Watt

In the end it's down to America

The Foreign Secretary's present visit to Washington appears to have been the subject of some foreboding among elements of his party. Will not the inexperienced Mr Pym, once removed from the immediate scrutiny of the Prime Minister and of right-minded Members of Parliament, be liable to have his arm twisted by the Reagan Administration? Is he robust enough to stand up for British interests against the charm of the President and the forceful pressures of Mr Haig and Mr Lawrence Eagleburger?

The short answer is that if Mr Pym shows signs of "backsliding" it is likely to be far more from personal conviction than from American pressure. The Administration will certainly continue to urge caution and compromise, but the general atmosphere in Washington — in the Congress and in the media — is at present so pro-British and so critical of the even-handedness of the President as between Britain and the Argentine that if anyone has the disposition in these conversations to put the half-

Atlantic unity and about the utility of adequate and flexible conventional forces.

Unfortunately it is not as simple as that. The Falklands affair will certainly have had some good effects on the alliance but it is important to realize that some of the lessons are not so reassuring.

In the first place, the Falklands are in one sense an exceptional case. There are almost no other instances remaining (with the possible exception of Gibraltar and, one or two very small French possessions) where a European power has allowed its credibility to remain linked to the defence of an overseas commitment.

The principle of "punishing aggression" and "maintaining stability", which the British Government proclaims as its guiding motive in the Falklands (and a perfectly genuine one) if we are going to war in our own interests anyway, but it is quite simply incredible that any modern European power will go to war outside Europe on this kind of ground alone.

The French exercise in Zaïre and the British contingents in Oman and Brunei are marginal exceptions to this but they are doubtful guides to generalization — the first being arguably a case of "interest" and the second very limited commitments indeed. The fact is that whatever happens in the South Atlantic, Europe remains in the American point of view a very unsatisfactory partner in the role of global policeman both as regards capacity and as regards political will, and as soon as the issue of the Falklands affair has settled all the old arguments and resentments on this score will undoubtedly resurface unless we take steps to improve matters.

This would not matter so much if American and European preoccupation and interests always marched together, but as the present crisis again shows, this is not invariably the case.

Nevertheless, the Conservative "hawks" are padding about in the right pool. No amount of patriotic euphoria should ever be allowed to obscure the reality that there is no way, whether military or pacific, in which the Falklands crisis can be settled to the satisfaction of Britain and the islands: without the active cooperation of the US. It is not simply a matter of immediate American "good offices" in the dispute, or even of American economic leverage over the junta.

In the long term, it is likely to be American guarantees of whatever status is negotiated for the islands, and indeed a significant part of American in the hemisphere as a whole, that will provide the essential security for an adequate settlement.

In other words, in the Latin-American context our need for the US is far greater than our nuisance value to the Americans. It therefore behooves us to put the Falklands issue firmly in the middle of the debate about the future of the Atlantic alliance: that has been going on ever since Soviet-American nuclear parity and the Afghanistan crisis precipitated it into the open.

The irony, of course, is that the Falklands question has opened the discussion of the subject upside down. For the past 18 months, the main focus of attention has been American complaints that the Europeans have not been pulling their weight, that we were turning soft and neutralist, and that unless we pulled ourselves together and spent more on defence and on supporting the crusade against Soviet imperialism worldwide, the US would inevitably start to downgrade its commitment to Europe.

Now the boot is on the other foot. It is the British who are complaining about lack of American support for a European attempt to resist aggression outside Europe. The first set of arguments was fuelled by the latent isolationism and nationalism of American public opinion; the second are feeding upon the latent anti-Americanism that occasionally wells up on the right as well as the left of British politics.

It might be said that this reversal is all to the good and that we have all learnt our lessons at last about the indivisibility of global problems, about the vital need for

The US needs to maintain a diplomatic posture in relation to Latin-American countries that is at odds with the interests of one of its major allies, just as say, West Germany needs to maintain a position in the European region, vis-a-vis its immediate neighbour, the Soviet Union, that is at odds with the perceptions of the US. There is nothing surprising about this but it needs far more management and calm recognition than we have given it in the past.

The other related question raised by the incident is even more vexatious. It is whether the US itself is really able to fulfil the policeman's role that it has set itself. The Falklands issue is a peripheral question for the US, requiring, even under the worst eventualities, little or no American military commitment, and involving no immediate Soviet presence or interference.

But it has already strained the sources of American policy and there are more potential Falklands around the world which may have to be contended with in the future, given the efficacy of low-level violence.

All this will require in the end, much thought, much alliance consultation, and, in all probability, new alliance machinery. In the pressure and confusion of the present crisis it is easy to forget these underlying problems, but they lie just beneath the surface of the situation all the same.

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Sinai: the war waiting in the wings



Israeli soldiers remove an anti-withdrawal protester in the Sinai

Jerusalem. By one of those supreme ironies of which the Middle East is so fond, the approaching climax of the first stage of the Camp David peace process — the final Israeli retreat from Sinai — has been accompanied by widespread concern about the prospect of a new Arab-Israeli conflict.

Even before Wednesday's massive Israeli air raids in Lebanon, the first since the American-negotiated truce came into effect last July, a combination of Israeli troop movements, Palestinian provocations, and ominous warnings from Cabinet ministers had convinced most Western diplomats in Tel Aviv that a new Israeli military thrust into Lebanon was inevitable. Some had even started a private book on the most likely date.

It is no secret that over the past few months, a number of leading figures in Israel's defence establishment have held talks with Lebanese Christian leaders from East Beirut. Little has been done here to dampen speculation that instead of repeating the 1978 Litani operation, a new Israeli invasion would involve a pincer movement from the north aimed at eliminating all Palestinian positions threatening Israel's vulnerable northern settlements.

Although Israeli generals and politicians continue to

insist that the air raids were "a warning" rather than an end to the ceasefire, observers in the Middle East were braced for possible Palestinian retaliation which could quickly spark a full-scale confrontation as *The Jerusalem Post* wrote yesterday: "Until yesterday afternoon the question was: will there be a war in Lebanon or will there not? Some good arguments could be marshalled in support of both possible answers. Now the question is: is this the war in Lebanon or is it not?"

There have, in any case, been serious Israeli doubts about the long-term viability of peace with an Egyptian Government which is determined to return to the Arab fold. In Jerusalem, little enthusiasm is to be found for President Mubarak's suggestion that Egypt could act as a peace-making bridge between Israel and the other Arabs.

Anxiety reached fever pitch following the recent non-aligned conference in Kuwait, when a lengthy speech by Egypt's delegate made no reference at all to the deadlocked talks on Palestinian autonomy, the lynchpin to the future viability of the Camp David framework.

Faced with accusations by many Israeli commentators (including Mr Ze'ev Schiff, the country's most respected military correspondent) that the government was whip-

ping up something of a false crisis over the impending Sinai handover, one official commented defensively: "We have got to make sure that future Egyptian moves are not paid in Israeli currency."

Doubts about the future of the peace process after April 25 are widespread at every level of Israeli society, even among those who strongly supported the peace treaty and still regard it as better than any readily available alternative.

The key to the concern was the murder last October of President Sadat and his smooth replacement by a man anxious to resume Egypt's Pan-Arab role. Outsiders are now reminded that Mr Begin is the only one of the three Camp David signatories still in power; and his shaky state of health is a constant source of gossip among Israeli politicians. Distrust of Egypt's attitude was increased when news leaked out of President Mubarak's reluctance to pay an official state visit to Jerusalem. The worries were whipped up by an Israeli administration which appeared to many observers to be deliberately oversteering the dangers inherent in its future relations with Egypt without the lever of the Sinai.

The genuine wave of national anxiety caused by the uprooting of Jews from the Sinai — heightened this

week by the forced eviction of many anti-withdrawal Israelis and the suicide threat issued by the members of the extreme right-wing Katch movement in a Yamit air-raid shelter — had almost certainly been given insufficient weight in Egypt, where there have been signs of a lack of flexibility during negotiations over the disputed international borderline due to come into effect on Sunday. "When you think of the thousands of square miles we are abandoning, you would have expected some flexibility over a few hundred yards", complained one irate Israeli official.

Inside Israel, where matters of strategy are very much the stuff of everyday conversation, there is a feeling that the new drive into Lebanon — a policy greatly favoured by the hawkish defence minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, — will provide the first test of the Egyptian strength of Israeli relations, because it may well embroil Syria.

The other test is most likely to occur in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where resentment over 15 years of occupation has recently risen to a new pitch because of Israeli's security clampdown and the shooting of Muslim worshippers in the shadow of the sacred Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine of Islam.

To those unfamiliar with

the religious passions provoked by Jerusalem's holy places, the strength of fury caused by the shooting is hard to convey. For once, the hyperbolic claim by young Palestinians that they were prepared to bare their chests against Israeli bullets seemed not to be much of an exaggeration.

The grim mood in Gaza was described by the moderate Arab mayor, Mr Rashad al-Shawwa, after Israeli troops had wounded some 100 local Arabs with bullets in a period of a few weeks and killed others. "We have reached the point where many of our people feel they have nothing more to lose," he said. "There is now a mood of despair which could have very dangerous consequences."

Apart from the depressing probability that the embryonic peace with Egypt will continue to be fraught with difficulties, confident prediction beyond the milestone of April 25 are hazardous in such a volatile region. But few now doubt that the possibility of an Israeli offensive push into Lebanon and the explosive issue of Israeli control of the West Bank will be the two issues which will predominate once the Star of David is lowered over the Sinai on Sunday for the last time.

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How a meat Bill could leave a bad taste

As it reaches report stage in the Commons today, there is a sudden and unexpected threat to Norman Atkinson's private member's Bill aimed at ending the trade in unfit meat. Thus far it has enjoyed a smooth passage, but now an amendment in the name of Peggy Fenner appears on the order paper with Government support. Its effect would be to ease the defences available under Section 113 of the Food and Drugs Act, modelling them instead on the more recent Consumer Safety Act which has already been declared unsatisfactory by the trading standards officers charged with its enforcement.

Under the Food and Drugs Act a person charged with an offence who wants to show that it is someone else's fault is obliged to name them and bring them before the court as a co-defendant. Admittedly this is not easy now that more food is imported. The requirement would be dropped under Fenner's amendment. Yet it was only in February 1980 that Peter Walker scrapped a review of the Food and Drugs Act which had been in progress since the middle of the last Labour government, announcing that no major changes were required in the legislation.

The Fenner amendment would to some extent negate Atkinson's proposals for stiffer penalties. If other aspects of the legislation are now to be reconsidered, it would be better if the Govern-

ment paid more attention to the law's deficiencies. There is, for example, no power for central government to remove unfit foodstuffs from the market. It all depends on local enforcement.

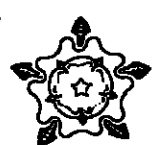
That means that if ever something like the Spanish olive oil disaster occurred here — which God forbid — we would not be all that much better prepared to deal with it than the Spanish were.

How easily misled these Celts are. John Home Robertson, MP for Berwick and East Lothian, sent back an artificial red rose which he, in common with all other MPs, was invited to "wear with pride upon St George's day" by this England quarterly. What seems to have upset him particularly is that the accompanying brochure, under "Songs of England" listed Auld Lang Syne.

True story

There is a more interesting performer card for the new BBC 1 thriller *Bird of Prey* than the well-publicized Mandy Rice-Davies. In the final episode of the serial (the first was shown last night) Christopher Logue, the poet, emerges as the Mr Big of the plot, a crooked Euro-MP called Jardine. It is a strange story for Logue, who compiles the even weirder *True Stories for Private Eye*, to find himself mixed up in it. He is kidnapped by a fat civil servant and held at a secret location which is, in reality, the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington. Logue — whose collected

THE TIMES DIARY



There used to be jokes on the backs of matchboxes, and sometimes there still are. Bryant & May have launched for St George's Day a series of Brynmay matchboxes with the theme: "Why Britain is Great!"

Predictably many of the chosen quotations suggest that the greatness of Britain was somehow built upon matches. Thus Shirley Williams says: "Why Britain is poems *Ode to the Dodo*, were published last year — has hitherto eschewed villainy in his dramatic career, concentrating instead on religion and philosophy. His previous roles on stage appeared to be Socrates, the Player King in Hamlet, John Ball and Cardinal Richelieu in Ken Russell's *The Devils*.

Hird instinct

Christopher Hird of *The Sunday Times* has been overwhelmingly recommended for the editorship of the *New Statesman* by the advisory group which has been considering candidates to succeed Bruce Page. The staff-dominated group voted six to one in his favour. The one dissenting voice, that of board member Anthony Sampson, spoke for Hugh Stephenson, former editor of *The Times Business News*. The vote by no means assures Hird the final selection. When

Great! Over 3 million unemployed, but our jobs — buy British made matches!"

The idea, which will appeal to philologists and patriots alike, is not a new one. The present series derives from a matchbox written almost 50 years ago which said: "Nearly 3 million unemployed, yet half the matches used in England are made abroad and this factory is on short time. Buy British matches, which are made entirely by British Labour. Whatever makes Britain great, it is not the speed of change."

Page was appointed the advisory group's preferred choice was James Fenton. This time five candidates go forward for consideration by the board, who make the final appointment. The others on the shortlist are David Blake, economics editor of *The New Statesman*; Stuart Weir of *World in Action*. Interviews are on Thursday.

Hird's proposals in his application for the post reassured the present staff that they would, if he is appointed, keep their jobs. That does not mean he would not bring changes. Included in his plans are a television version of the *New Statesman* on Channel 4, and a series of "alternative readings" of literary figures like Dickens, Eliot and Shelley. This last is the sort of thing he thinks might attract younger readers to the faltering magazine. Peter Kellner, the paper's political editor, says: "It would

be a deep insult to the whole of the staff if they do not make Christopher Hird editor. It would lead to a lot of unnecessary aggravation between the board and the staff if the SDP contingent manage to overturn the group's recommendation." So there could be more trouble ahead.

High tech Mac

Scotland, so long the victim of its haggis-fed, dram-dripping stereotype, has a new image. An exhibition at Simpson in Piccadilly drives out the view of a stag infested wilderness of misty glens and grubbing crofters obliterating it with a shower of microchips, heavy duty robotics and telecommunications antennae. The exhibition, opened by the Earl of Mansfield, Minister of State in the Scottish Office, is appropriately hosted by Simpson, whose associated company, Dakas, has just ordered the most advanced computerized clothing-cutting system in Europe for its factory at Larkhall in Lanarkshire. They tell me they do not see a lot of handwoven Harris tweed these days.

Young pros

Leonard Weaver, managing director of the management consultants PE International, has been musing during the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Institute of Management Consultants as to which other profession his own is best compared. A vice-president of the institute, Weaver thinks management consultancy is the newest pro-

fession and has much in common with the oldest. "Our pitch is being greeted by amateurs," he says. "Also young consultants, like ladies of the night, go in because the money is good. Once they are in they find it is not so good, but they like the variety so they stay in. And after 20 years of it they are no good for anything else."



Tea taster PHS took tea yesterday afternoon with Sam Twining. His family have been in the business for nine generations and he knows his Lapsang Souchong from his Orange Pekoe. Teas like wines, are selected by expert tasters. They are sipped

from specially prepared samples with a tasting spoon, spread over the palate, rolled around the mouth to detect pungency and then spat out.

Twining says the green leaf teas, originally from China, are the white wines, black teas the red, and Formosa Oolong with a fragrance reminiscent of ripe peaches. The rose is the Earl of Grey.

A mine of immemorial information, Twining adds that on average every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand and Australia drinks four and a half cups of tea a day.

He also says that tea should never be left to brew beyond its time in the pot. Use an infuser, and never a cosy without one.

So, visibly horrified do American audiences find Michael Winner's *Death Trap*, I am told, that as the moment approaches when Michael Caine and Christopher Reeves kiss each other the customers at Loew's cinema on Broadway rise in their seats and yell: "Don't do it, Superman!"

Answers here on Monday. PHS

Diary quiz

From this week's news: 1. Why is Scotch on the rocks? 2. Whose porcine physiognomy won press publicity? 3. Who has written a play about an opera rehearsal based on an unfinished operatic version of a play? 4. Who hung on from Wales? 5. Who broke a record but nothing else?

The pensions industry

Today in Bournemouth Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Secretary, addresses members of the National Association of Pension Funds on the economic realities confronting their £50,000m industry.

John Whitmore takes up the theme.



Pensioners of Reed International on an outing: an illustration from Reed Pension Trust's 1981 annual report, which was commended in this year's Golden Pen Award competition, run by the NAPP (see page 19).

How employees lose out when they change jobs

Last June the Occupational Pensions Board published its long-awaited report on *Improved Protection for the Occupational Pension Rights and Expectations of Early Leavers*. Since that date, there has been desultory debate of the report's conclusions and recommendations. But sadly it looks as though the report will suffer the same fate as most of its predecessors, and be conveniently swept under the carpet.

The problem, however, will not go away. The much increased incidence of company closures, takeovers, mergers and liquidations following in the wake of recession has massively swelled the ranks of the unemployed and redundant. These former employees suffer the double blow of losing both their job and a substantial proportion of their pension rights. While the former may be unavoidable, the latter is not.

Most of the 11,500,000 employees in company pension schemes expect to retire on a pension related to their salary at retirement date. The exact proportion of final salary will depend on the number of years the employee has been a member of the company pension scheme.

Commonly the formula is one-sixteenth of final salary for each year of service, providing a life-long employee with the maximum allowed by the Inland Revenue, two-thirds of final salary.

The early leaver — whether a job changer moving voluntarily or a redundant employee — receives frozen pension benefits based on salary at the time of leaving — clearly a much less attractive proposition. It has been estimated that an employee who changes jobs just once in his working life receives only 60 per cent of the pension benefits of those who stay with one employer.

The main recommendation of the OPB's report is that early leavers should receive the same benefits for their years of pensionable service as their fellow members who stay in the same employment to pension age. In practice

this would mean uprating frozen pension benefits to take account of inflation in the time between an employee leaving and retirement age.

Regrettably the OPB's recommendations were largely rejected by the pension industry's main trade organization, the National Association of Pension Funds.

Yet the Association's own statistics demonstrate just how badly legislation is needed. The NAPP's survey for 1980 revealed that 73 per cent of all occupational pension schemes give no increases at all on deferred pensions, and in the private sector, only 12 per cent of schemes improve benefits for early leavers during 1980.

Of those fortunate enough to be granted some uprating of frozen pension benefits, the actual increases granted were more than twice as good in the public sector schemes.

The Association correctly points out the difficulties of redistributing finite resources — 'priorities once established are difficult to change and can only be changed to the advantage of one section at the expense of another.'

But this ignores the fact that most employees become early leavers at some point in their career.

The NAPP has centred its criticisms of the OPB's proposals on the possible extra cost to employers, choosing to ignore the simple compromise of diverting any future improvement in pension benefits towards a fair share of the pension cake for early leavers and pensioners, rather than uprating benefits for stayers. This would cost employers nothing.

And its view of pensions is positively feudal. 'What the NAPP deplores is the implicit assumption that in some way early leavers are not getting normal justice, that they are being denied rights,' says the NAPP.

'We know that some early leavers are genuinely surprised to discover the consequences of their move in pension terms. Normally the employer invests a great deal in recruiting and training and would hope to amortize this over a period of years, possibly over something approaching a full career.'

This outdated attitude towards employees and their pension fund entitlement persists in some firms, but in today's climate of forced redundancy and high unemployment, the unfairness of this approach becomes increasingly apparent.

The OPB in its report is quite clear about the poor chance of employers voluntarily improving the plight of early leavers, saying they 'feared voluntary action would be too slow in achieving adequate and widespread improvements and the board agreed on the need for some statutory action to require these increases'. The board is, however, split on how far employers should be forced by law to uprate the frozen pension benefits of early leavers.

Most of the board opted for increases each year in line with average earnings up to a maximum of 5 per cent compound a year. A minority on the board wanted mandatory increases in line with average earnings — or if a statutory ceiling were imposed it should be at least 8.5 per cent a year.

At the moment, the debate on early leavers' pension rights has gone cold.

The one glimmer of light has been the acceptance by the Inland Revenue and the OPB of a new pension scheme set up by Insurers London and Manchester which offers early leavers the facility to take a transfer value from an occupational pension scheme and invest it in a personal pension plan, thereby enhancing the benefits paid on retirement.

If more insurers follow suit, the pension funds may be forced to improve deferred pension benefits to prevent all their early leavers from taking a transfer value and massively depleting the funds' resources.

Lorna Bourke

Pensioners may not be in the public spotlight at the moment as they have sometimes been in the past. But these are still interesting days in the pensions world, as the political engineers struggle to upgrade the British economic machine.

Unless that is accomplished, our hopes of a comfortable retirement could be rudely shattered. For, as the Chancellor told the National Association of Pension Funds at the Birmingham conference last May: 'Our society has locked itself into providing benefits without having made the economic adjustments necessary to sustain them.'

That said, it is perhaps too easy to be excessively gloomy about the British economy — and, by extension, pension prospects. The performance of the last couple of years has, it is true, been disappointing. And it is also true that the prospect of the world becoming still more competitive through the 1980s would not seem to augur well for a country that has been frustratingly slower to adapt to change than many of its more successful competitors.

Yet, if one looks back over the 1970s, it is at least arguable that our economic performance has been less disastrous than is commonly perceived. In the decade to 1979 — before the recent recession started — output grew by 23 per cent in real terms and real disposable incomes by no less than 37 per cent.

Moreover, the recession itself has forced many managements to take the long overdue measures needed to keep them internationally competitive. And one hopes there are sufficient companies who see the advent of a period of rapid technological change as offering significant new opportunities for growth rather than as the likely cause of the British economy's final undoing.

But should the Jeremiahs turn out to be right, what then? There are a number of scenarios one can draw, some more threatening to pensions than others. The worst would be our prolonged economic stagnation, or even marginal contraction. Quite apart from the fact that this would imply falling living standards, both in work and in retirement, for certain sectors of the population, it strongly suggests that benefits in general would have to be spread more thinly.

A rather less pessimistic scenario might be one in which the economy continued to grow in line with the 1970s trend — i.e. at just over 2 per cent a year — but with living standards stagnating as the terms of trade turned against us.

In that case nominal pension commitments would probably be met, but that would not be the end of the matter. For the implication of a steadily depreciating exchange rate would be steadily rising prices and a severe squeeze on those with fixed incomes.

In short, one would march straight back into the debate on inflation-proofing pensions — and the cost. In the 1970s some occupational private sector schemes went a long way, sometimes the whole way, towards protecting pensioners from inflation. But in the schemes used in the Scott Report exercises the average protection afforded against inflation had been running at no more than 50-55 per cent.

As the new state scheme comes into its own, an increasing proportion of pensions will automatically become inflation-proofed out of state coffers (or, more correctly, the taxpayers' pockets). But that would still leave occupational schemes with plenty to do, particularly where there was a relatively large membership with above average earnings.

Indeed, for many schemes, full inflation proofing remains an impossible commitment without a major adjustment either to contributions or the basic benefit. And that is before one comes to the question of whether or not the State would be able to keep to its own commitment on inflation-proofing.

There might have to be some re-thinking of the scope of the earnings-related element of the State pension or some redefinition of the basis for inflation-proofing. Arguably, the concept of inflation-proofing based on the movement in retail prices is ill-founded. It suggests that all those enjoying the benefit of indexation are entitled to a standard of living the country may not be earning. Sooner rather than later the Government should consider modifying the concept of indexation to allow for such factors as changes in the terms of trade, indirect taxation etc.

That might complicate what has the merit of being a relatively simple system. But it would reduce the risk of dangerous distortions in the economy and provide a better way of ensuring that the community as a whole shared equitably in any general change in the level of living standards.

A third scenario would be the one to which we tend to cling for the paradoxical reason that the world has become so volatile that we no longer really know what to predict. This is a future in which both output and living standards remain broadly in line with past trends. In that case the emphasis will turn more to views on the rates of return likely to be available.

Here it is perhaps possible to be rather more optimistic (unless one believes in a change in government that will produce some fairly unscrupulous direction of investment). Discounting platitudes on the justice of savers getting a fair crack of

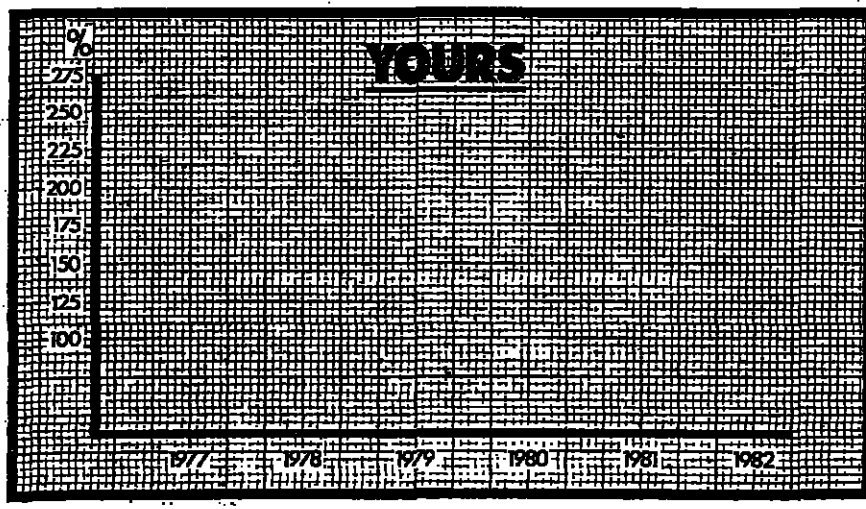
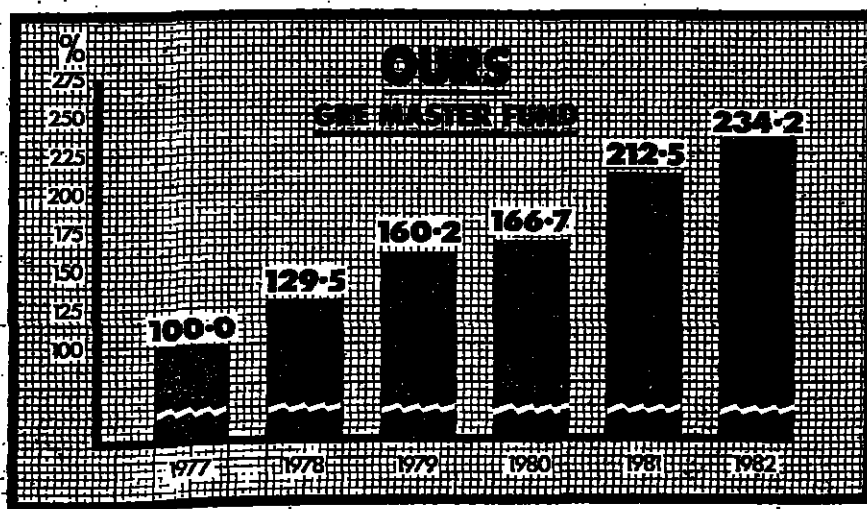
the whip, the fact is that investors now have index-linked stocks, what look to be historically high prospective real returns on other government paper, and the slow rehabilitation of the concept and reality of corporate profitability.

One could produce other scenarios — perhaps of an even more optimistic nature. But for the pension funds it is not only going to be what happens to the overall economy that matters but also what happens to employment. And here it is not impossible that the best scenario for living standards could be one that minimizes employment.

Nobody really knows. Will technological change simply leave us with a permanently smaller and diminishing workforce? Or will the structure of the economy change in a way that will bring about a return to 'full employment' accompanied by large redeployments of the labour force?

In the latter case there could be major changes in the relative sizes of companies and their pension funds; and that would suggest potential transitional problems, particularly as pressure mounts for a better deal on transfer rights.

In the former case, the total numbers in the population with a claim to long-term benefits would rise significantly. The idea of the school-leaver becoming a pensioner immediately is unpalatable and, hopefully, far-fetched. But a sustained trend toward a large number of people out of work or having to share work for a good part of their lives, or simply retiring early, could well have major implications for the proportion of resources to be devoted to the traditional pensioner.



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PENSIONS

Odd man out overdue for reform

"To most people the investment made by or for them in a pension fund is, apart from their home, the only substantial investment that they will have. . . . Of all investments it is, perhaps, the least regulated." So writes Professor Jim Gower in his recent report on investor protection, ordered by the Government last year through the Department of Trade after the collapse of a number of investment management groups, most spectacularly Norton Warburg.

Professor Gower says in his report that a full-scale discussion and suggestions for the revision of the law governing pension funds is beyond the scope of his review, which sprang from the need to update the aged Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act. But he clearly thinks that pensions are now well overdue for a legislative overhaul and outlines several of the existing anomalies.

"There is no specific statutory regime for pension funds", he reports. "They depend simply on the law of trusts. . . . Whereas unit trusts are subject additionally to rigorous regulation, pension funds are not." The Occupational Pensions Board, Gower points out, has a limited role. "Apart from these checks the only protection of the beneficiaries is the possibility of suing the trustees for breach of trust."

The idea of legislation for the pensions industry is not new. The Wilson Report, quoted by Gower, said: "The framework within which they (pension funds) operate has grown piecemeal and now needs to be systematized and strengthened. . . . It is unsatisfactory that so much of it should depend on a body of trust law developed for quite other purposes."

In a nutshell the argument is here is of the biggest, if not the biggest financial industries in the country, more often than not permitted to demand a proportion of employees' earnings as contributions; yet there is no tailor-made legislation or regulations to police it. The pensions industry is the odd man out in a world where other forms of collective investment are tightly controlled.

Predictably, many in the pensions industry — but by no means all, are against the idea of any special legislation. At last year's annual conference of the National Association of Pension Funds in Brighton, Mr Maurice Oldfield, chairman of the NAPF, pointed out that during the 58 years of the association's existence no pension funds had gone bust, although many companies had done so.

This, it should be pointed out, is no thanks to the NAPF, which does not necessarily scrutinize the books of its members and has been noticeably backward in instituting rules and regulations among its members. However, it did institute a code of practice on information to members of pension schemes in 1980.

It would be impossible to imagine a situation where a pension fund goes spectacularly bust like Norton Warburg — the fund is restricted on how many of its investment eggs it can put in one basket and precautions are taken against the obvious hazard that pension funds go bust alongside the company it is attached to.

The source of most discontent is the relationship of the members to the fund. The fact that while they are often forcibly herded into occupational pension schemes, joining the pension scheme is frequently a condition of employment they have, in law, very few rights.

There is no statutory requirement to tell pension fund members very much about their money. The NAPF encourages its members to furnish fund managers with regular and understandable information. Perhaps the best way of

showing the deficiencies is to look at what a pension fund member can do if he does not like some aspect of fund policy in benefits. While pension funds have inclined in recent years to take notice of the political implications of their investment policies — on South African holdings for instance — and have often nominated a token trade unionist as one of the trustees, members have had less influence on benefits.

If a fund makes dreadfully unprofitable investments there is nothing the member can do unless the fund managers have breached the trust deeds. That is difficult to prove. Some people have persisted and won — most notably in the case of Evans v London Cooperative Society.

One reason why pension managers are terrified of any legislation beefing up members' rights is what happens in the United States. Where lawsuits are frequently and often frivolously launched against funds that have under-performed. Even those who think we should have pension fund legislation in this country want to avoid that situation.

By and large realistic increases in pensions in payment are at the discretion of the trustees of the pension fund. This, and the fact that early leavers are generally discriminated against, is a very grey area. Strictly speaking, under trust law all beneficiaries should be treated the same — that is the original concept. In practice, this does not seem to be the case with regard to pension funds.

Who is to regulate the fund managers? In the City there is a confusing variety of codes which Professor Gower would like to see incorporated into new legislation. There seems to be absolutely no reason why the pension fund industry should not be included.

Margaret Drummond

Cruising confidently in neutral

"Our aim has been to maintain confidence", said Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, in the Commons on March 23. He was moving the adoption of the orders relating to the first review of the contract-out terms established under the provisions of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975.

In responding, the Opposition spokesman, Mr Brynmor John, admitted that "none of us understands fully what has happened", and he went on to suggest that "a simpler formula must be found".

Mr Anthony Newton, the newly appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary, made the encouraging observation that "we have not closed the door on any further consideration of the arrangements". His observation will doubtless be responded to positively and constructively by pensions' practitioners.

But what does all this really mean? Mr John's admission was correct — even those of us devoting our lifetime work to this subject find many of its intricacies fearfully complex — but in asking for a simpler formula, he may well be seeking the impossible. Hopefully, however, a more equitable long-term formula can be found for the buy-back terms.

The Secretary of State confined himself to principles and political considerations, knowing that if he got too close to the details of the review, he would be accused of bias. Clearly Mr Fowler's aim is right, and in moving the adoption of the orders, he referred to representations made to him by the influential Occupational Pensions Scheme Joint Working Group (JWJG), and to their emphasis on the need to maintain confidence if the status quo was to be retained. There was, in the event, general agreement that the terms of this, the first of the quinquennial reviews under the statute, should be neutral in effect.

Neutrality is not capable of precise definition, of course. Some have claimed that a revised abatement of NI contributions of 6 per cent is neutral while others have advocated 6½ per cent. It is perhaps unsurprising that the result is 6¼ per cent.

Such a compromise can in no way undermine confidence. It is highly unlikely that any company would wish to consider the trauma of altering its 1978 decision on the basis of the difference in its share of a quarter per cent abatement of relevant earnings — especially as its distribution is marginally in favour of the employer's

contributions at the expense of the employees.

The buy-back terms are another matter. These are the terms on which a contracted-out employment can cease to be contracted out and the members of the appropriate scheme bought back into the state scheme. It can be argued that these terms are largely irrelevant, if the decision to contract-out was validly made on a long-term basis. They are of importance only if unforeseen circumstances arise.

Even then, there is no compulsion, on ceasing to be contracted-out, to buy back into the state scheme, although it will be desirable for trustees to know they can do so. For instance, if the actuary were to express concern at his ability to sign a solvency certificate, the trustees would find themselves in an embarrassing position.

Nevertheless, the new terms to apply from April 6, 1983, for the period 1983/88 are worse than those now operating. They are only marginally worse if the economy is really moving according to forecasts, with interest rates (and inflation) moving down into a tolerable area.

They are significantly worse if we are to remain in the higher interest realms of the last four years; and it should anyway be recalled that we are measuring the change against terms that have turned out, because of exceptionally high interest rates, to be more generous than foreseen. A reasonable basis has to be kept between those who are contracted out (approximately 45 per cent of the working population) and those who are not (approximately 55 per cent).

"Pensions" practitioners, through the JWJG, foresaw the coming difficulties. In May 1981 they took the initiative of placing before the then Secretary of State their own review of the contracting-out terms. This was followed by the Government Actuary's report in August on which his report to Parliament would be based. The response to that memorandum made it clear there were differences of opinion. Further consultation took place, but by then the timescale for dialogue had become impossibly short, and when the orders were finally laid a quite different adjustment to the buy-back terms was tabled.

Nevertheless, it has been made abundantly clear in Parliament that the Government is open to further representation, and indeed to change if a reasonable

alternative is brought forward for its consideration. The last-minute change to the buy-back terms may prove to be serious, especially as the new terms are to be phased in over a period of five years. Their full impact will not be felt until 1987/88 — by which time it may be only minimal; long before then the terms will have been subjected to the most detailed scrutiny, perhaps leading to further change.

There will be prophets of doom who, for their own reasons, will regard the latest review as an opportunity to undermine the status quo. There will also be confused thinking by, for instance, many US-owned companies, in trying to pursue their philosophy of integrating their own pension provision with the social security system of the country in which they are operating, many still fail to understand that the most effective form of integration in the UK is through contracting-out.

Some companies will continue to consider contracting-out the wrong option. But in describing as a "major success" the fact that some 90 per cent of members of schemes are contracted-out, Mr Fowler has underlined that option, frequently selected after consultation with unions, is a welcome one. It will be a very brave employer (or perhaps a remarkably foolish one) who will seek to overturn his previous decision on the basis of this review.

In the debate in the House, both Mr Brynmor John and Mr Robert McCrindle took the opportunity to feature the apparent failure of occupational schemes. We can only hope that they, and others, will eventually realize that these criticisms have little to do with the construction of such schemes. They have everything to do with the deployment of limited resources, and the ordering of priorities.

There is no reason to suppose that confidence has been undermined. To the extent that employers (and employees) see in it a direct financial gain, this review should certainly be used as an additional resource to ameliorate the position of early leavers and pensioners. But there is a lot more talking to be done with the Government over the buy-back terms.

Derek Bandey

The author is president of the Society of Pension Consultants and Chairman of the Occupational Pensions Scheme Joint Working Group.

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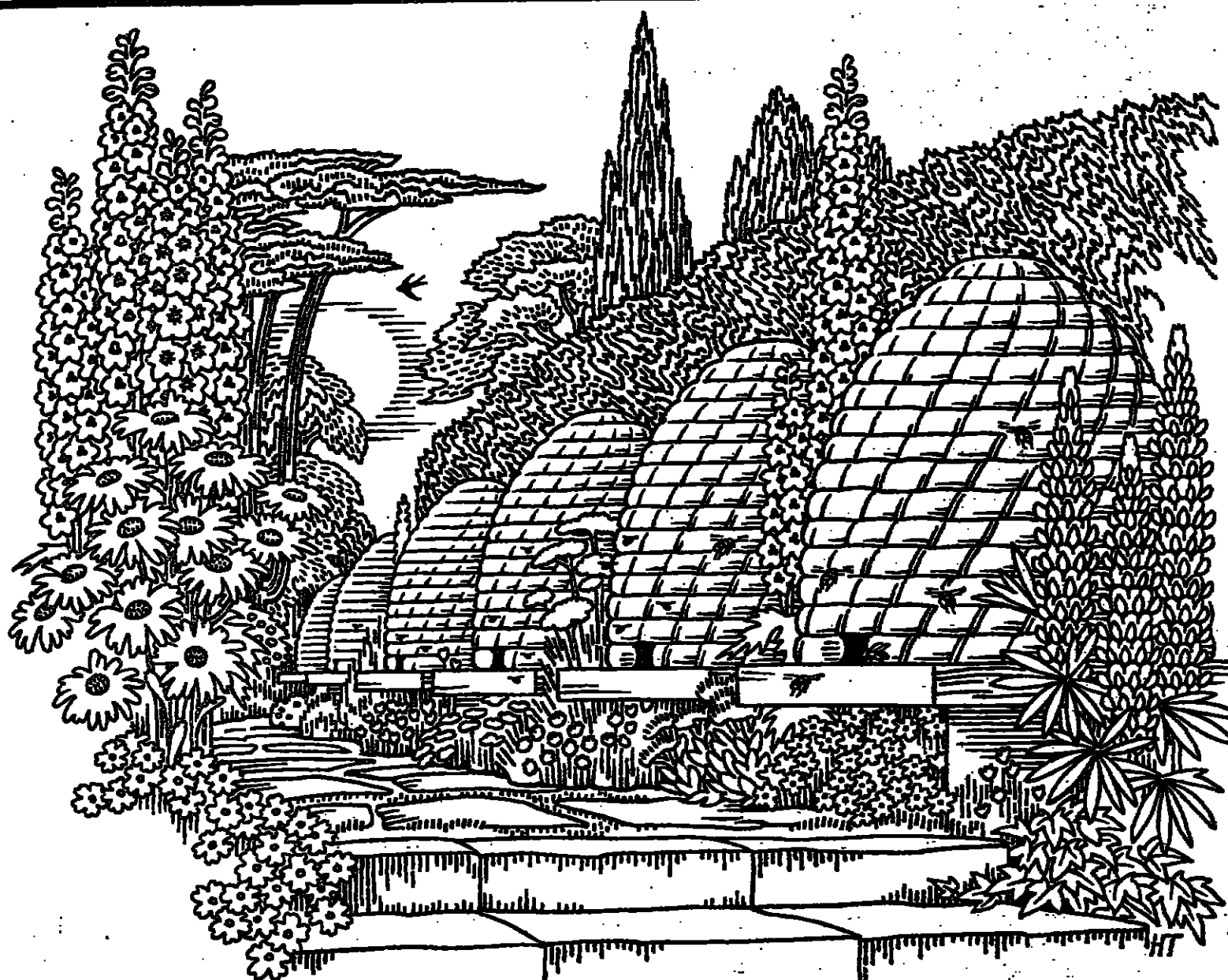
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Index linked: why the good news looked bad

Ironically, the week many fund managers may most readily recall about the maiden year of index-linked government securities will be the one in which they made (or could have made) a 10 point killing in these stocks.

That, of course, happened in the couple of days after the Chancellor announced in his recent Budget that index-linked gilts would in future be available to all comers and not just to pension funds.

For the first time one was able to see the enormous gearing inherent in these stocks come into its own. The sudden change in circumstances that led the market to change its perception of the appropriate real return from one of around three per cent to one of around 24 per cent produced what must have been some of the sharpest short-term movements in government bonds ever seen.

Yet initially this very surge in prices looked to be potentially very bad news for pension funds for the longer term. After all, the argument that had originally led the funds to push the yields up to three per cent had not changed — the argument being that the stocks should offer at least a small premium over the long-term trend of a two per cent per annum increase in real wages.

So, with yields down to 24 per cent or so, was the premium getting too small, even allowing for the "certainty" value of the stocks?

The answer is probably yes, though it is not that simple. For what happened when the Government offered its first restricted stock was that the pension funds sat on the sidelines, and so did everyone else. The big new demand that had been expected failed to materialize.

Since then the yield has dropped back to around 24 per cent; the funds can probably take the view that for the moment at least they are back in the driving seat, on the assumption that the Government would like to

make further issues of such stock in the new financial year.

This does not mean that non-pension fund demand might not appear in size at some future stage, though if the Government does want to issue, say, £2,500m of new stock per year, then it would have to be in some size to make a significant impact on the yield. That demand would be most likely to appear as inflationary expectations started to worsen, with overseas buyers possibly coming in as soon as they felt that the exchange rate risk of worsening inflation had been largely discounted.

Apart from interest in the index-linked stocks as investments in their own right, the advent of the ILs has also provided a useful benchmark for comparing other kinds of investment. To the extent that this has helped crystallize thoughts on investment strategy, and possibly to modify them in some instances, the impact may well be working its way through to relative prices in the marketplace itself.

But here one is on much more tentative ground. Take, for example, the conventional fixed-rate gilt-edged market. Real yields are historically high at the moment — certainly they are far higher than one would have expected, given the official forecast of inflation at around 7½ per cent by this time next year.

One cannot ascribe this phenomenon solely to the availability of index-linked stocks. Quite clearly, the explanation lies largely in the absence of exchange controls and the even higher real yields offered by US bonds.

Even so, it seems logical to believe that in more normal times the existence of index-linked stocks is bound to prevent gilt-edged yields moving towards zero (or less) quite in the way they have tended to in the past.

The linkage here will probably become more evident over time. Given the vagaries of the yield it may possibly become more appar-

ent than any relationship with share and property yields.

Leaving aside the influence of index-linked stocks, the other major factor in the fund's investment thinking has continued to be the increased weighting given to overseas investment.

As 1981 wore on the signs seemed to be that the first great wave of overseas portfolio investment in the wake of the abolition of exchange controls in October, 1979, was beginning to subside. Pension funds had on average probably doubled their overseas weighting, from around five to closer to ten per cent — the shift in portfolio balance over so short a period obviously absorbing a far greater proportion of total cash flow.

This was precisely the kind of thing the Government hoped they would do, both to help hold down the exchange rate and to build up a new source of income for when North Sea oil starts to run out. The fruits of that increased investment overseas are now starting to come through quite strongly in terms of overseas earnings.

Whether the funds will want to take that present weighting much higher, in view of the fact that the bulk of their liabilities are in sterling, remains to be seen.

The increasingly lacklustre performance of the US economy and the possibility that increased protectionism might slow down the Japanese growth rate might for the moment argue against stepping up the overseas weighting. But it is not inconceivable that the weighting could push up towards 15 per cent over time, and that would again imply a rather greater percentage of net cash now finding its way overseas rather than in into UK markets.

Perhaps the day will yet come when UK investment managers start casting a closer eye over golden handshakes, service contracts etc in major foreign firms.

John Whitmore

Housing attracts investment

The Building Trust, launched in January this year and chaired by Sir Monty Finniston, is a pioneering venture into what is, for pension funds, largely uncharted territory: the provision of loans for private home purchase.

Funds supporting the trust, which has an authorized capital of £100,000, include Marks and Spencer, Allied Breweries and the Post Office Superannuation Fund. In the following article, Robin Ellison, a solicitor and the trust's managing director, explains its philosophy and looks at prospects for expansion in the same field.

Investment in housing usually means either rented property, or speculative house-building, or speculative house-building. Each has had its drawbacks for pension fund trustees. Rented property has been surrounded for a long period by legislative control and political activism and has caused a sour taste in the mouths of many major institutions. Building society mortgages, even today, give too low a rate of return compared with what the market can offer. Speculative housebuilding is a somewhat risky form of investment, unable to satisfy the trust requirements of most pension funds.

Coupled with the difficulties of administration of mortgage portfolios, these drawbacks have deterred almost all pension funds from lending on housing — government figures last year indicated that only 21m of the £70,000m assets of funds were allocated in this way.

Now there seems to be a reversal of trends. The attractions, in principle, of investing in housing are obvious — a good return coupled with unparalleled security. In practice it seems that the only way in which pension funds can satisfactorily help to alleviate the insatiable demand for private housing is by providing mortgages.

Trust law suggests that mortgage are wholly satisfactory form of asset for trust funds. The experience of the Depression showed that even in the worst times, mortgagors were determined

to keep making their payments — in this respect mortgages proved to be a more secure investment than government stocks. And the Trustee Investments Act 1961 emphasized, by classifying mortgages as a "narrow-range" investment, that such an investment was clearly beyond criticism, unlike some other currently questionable forays into works of art, or overseas property.

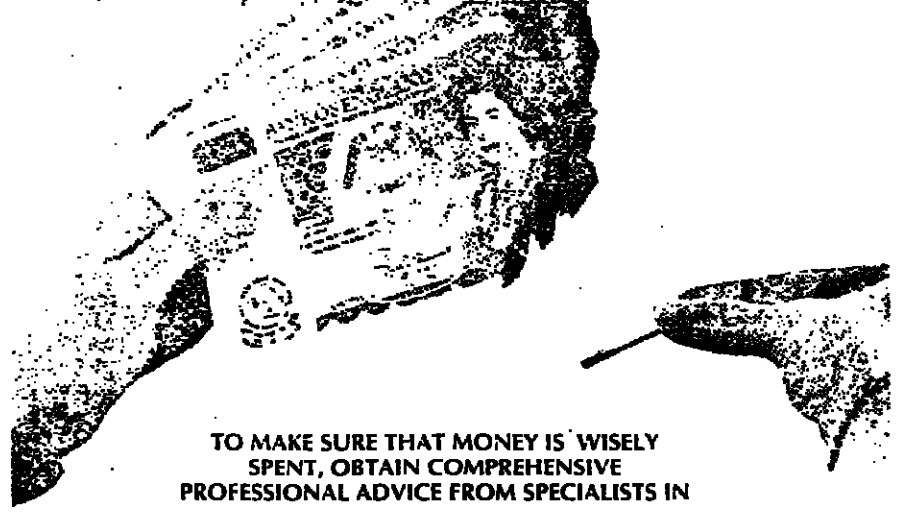
Secondly, investment managers have been uncomfortably aware, even in current times, that perhaps the best investment they have made has been their own home. Until recently, however, they have been unable for practical reasons to invest in the housing market. The recent Henderson bond, not restricted to pension funds, which invests in up-market property in the London area (currently subject to the greatest pressures) shows that there is a demand to invest in housing. And recent studies of long-term house price trends indicate that house prices will soon start to climb again.

Thirdly, the long-term nature of pension fund liabilities is neatly matched by the long-term nature of most mortgages. Although mortgages are commonly expressed to be for 25-year periods, in practice the average redemption period is about seven years; and in the United States, where mortgages are a conventionally marketable security sold on exchanges that for Treasury Bonds, treat them as "10-year" money.

Immense political pressure is being placed on pension funds by the present administration. The Financial Institutions Group (FIG), established by Michael Heseltine last year, after the inner-city riots, has proposed an "Equity Mortgage Corporation", a body designed to take money from institutions and invest it with building companies and housing associations.

FIG has also suggested that there might be support for a "Government Housing Bond". While previous initiative in this field, including pension fund investment in "shared-ownership" schemes, have been rejected by the institutions, it may be a matter of time before one of them is accepted. All such schemes need to satisfy the requirements of pension fund trustees and investment managers and to offer a market rate of return. They also need special mechanisms in order to compete with the semi-subsidized rates offered by building societies.

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Prudential

Closer look at the figures

The complexities of pension funds may baffle the financially unsophisticated, but actuarial statements can hardly rate bedside reading even for the investment professionals. It is hardly surprising, then, that for years most companies with occupational pension schemes felt no burning desire to communicate with members.

Employees, it was thought, wouldn't understand a pension fund report, even if they were interested enough to want to read it in the first place.

Although pension fund members have few statutory rights to regular information, and the practice of sending out reports to them automatically is by no means universal, communications are improving. Two years ago the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) instituted the Golden Pen awards for pension funds which submitted the best reports for members.

Yesterday the NAPF announced the winners for 1982. The judges were Mr Henry James, director general of the NAPF; Mr Myles White, head of pensions and social services, General and Municipal Workers Union; and Mr Charles Sleight, chairman of the accounting standards committee's working party on pension funds and accounts.

There are three categories of award. First, the formal

pension report and accounts for funds with over 500 members. This includes a breakdown of investments, details of the assets and liabilities of the fund, an actuarial report and possibly a separate valuation for the property portfolio.

The second category, perhaps of more interest to the millions of employees and pensioners, is the popular trustees report to members. Small funds with less than 500 members have a separate category of their own.

Few employees will want to wade through tons of figures, so the popular trustees report is probably the one that will be most widely read. The three Golden Pen judges chose the BICC Group Pension Fund as the 1982 winner in this category.

Along among all the winners or runners-up, the BICC report consists of four pages and is printed on glossy paper. Tabloid in format, it is generously illustrated and includes well-designed tables and a financial breakdown. It is also printed in big bold type — why do editors of house journals and the like always seem to think that the workers are short sighted?

The report's great virtue is that it manages, the nearly impossible — explaining important points about the fund to the layperson without being confusing or boring. It also includes practical

information: how to apply for early retirement pension, how to get the Government's relaxed age restriction, and how to make additional voluntary contributions. There is a clear illustrated account of the money that came in and out of the fund and where it went, a review and breakdown of investments, and a short but clear actuaries' report.

There is an effort to humanize all that money. But I doubt if anyone at BICC will take the company up on its suggestion that they should visit the untidy pile of cigarette boxes in Shrewsbury ("this handsome building") that forms part of the fund's property portfolio.

Do members really relish this sort of thing — or indeed the little property pep talk delivered by the fund's property consultant on the back page? With his advice that quick decisions are important, there are other potential buyers seeking good property, he would appear to be addressing the managers of the pension fund rather than its members.

Runner up in this category was the National Coal Board's effort, which the judges held to be a "model of exposition." They praised it for the way it summarizes retirement benefits and gives details of where members can get fuller explanatory leaflets.

In the formal category Tate & Lyle came top. It is the only report among the winners and runners up that compares the fund's latest annual performance against another performance measure. It gives a clear breakdown of the fund, a statement on investment policy and performance and (also rather rare) the phone numbers and names of the people who administer the scheme. Pension funds usually seem so faceless.

Debenhams were runners up in this category and the Reed Pension Trust (one of last year's winners) and the British Airways Pension Scheme were both commended.

Among the small funds (less than 500 members) the Reardon Smith report was the winner. Its 10 stapled pages are plain, austere even. Judging from that and the commendable report of the University of York Pension Fund (last year's winner in this category), brevity and simplicity are expected of the small funds.

The Reardon Smith effort packs in the detail, despite its size, but the University of York report strikes me as infinitely better looking. The way it uses simple clear illustrations to show the fund's investment and financial situation is much more effective than mere rows of figures.

Margaret Drummond

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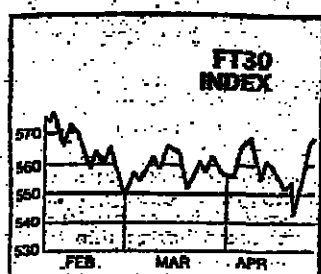
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BUSINESS NEWS

Share prices falter



After their good run so far this week share prices ran into more resistance yesterday, and were not helped by cautious remarks from ICI on current year prospects. Up 2.4 points at 10 am, the FT index drifted for the rest of the day and closed with a net gain of 1.6 at 569 — a rise of 18.3 points so far this week. Gilt-edged lower in response to firmer money market rates and with investors reluctant to open fresh positions before the weekend.

British Aerospace deal

British Aerospace is to buy Sperry Gyroscope for £45m in cash. A down payment of £4.5 has been made and the balance is to be paid next month. Sperry, owned by the Sperry Corporation of the United States, was established in the UK in 1913 to make gyro compasses for the Royal Navy. It has recently designed and developed Britain's first laser gyro inertial navigation system.

Business Editor, Page 23

ICI hints at redundancies

Substantial redundancies in the plastics and petrochemicals division of ICI were strongly hinted at yesterday by Mr John Harvey-Jones, the new chairman. Addressing his first annual meeting of shareholders, Mr Harvey-Jones said economic recovery had been delayed, and the future remained uncertain. Radical rationalization, including plant closures, was essential, but the company was not getting out of Britain.

Jobs to go, page 22

Rise in EEC steel output

European Community steel production rose to 31.9m tonnes in the first three months of the year, almost 3 per cent up on a year earlier. Output in the United States, which has begun moves to restrict imports of steel from Europe, fell by 29 per cent in the first quarter to 20.3m tonnes, according to figures from the International Iron and Steel Institute.

SE opposition

Sir Nicholas Goodison, Stock Exchange chairman, has criticized proposals on indexation of capital gains tax. The measures, seeking to remove the inflation effect on the value of capital assets, are in the Finance Bill which entered the committee stage yesterday.

MARKET SUMMARY

Spotlight on oil

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 569.0, up 1.6
FT Gilt 57.97, down 0.10
FT All Share 325.99, up 1.46
Bargains 15,210

Political uncertainty continues to keep trade quiet in all sections of the stock market but there is an underlying firm tone which helped the FT index to a 1.6 rise to 569.0, an advance so far on this account of 18.3.

Gloomy comments on trading from Mr John Harvey-Jones, chairman, clipped 4p from ICI while other blue chits ended narrowly mixed with Glaxo unchanged at 631p after the recent dramatic rises.

The spotlight was firmly on the oil sector after the Opec decision to cut production and there were double figure gains for leaders with BP up 12p at 310p, Shell 14p better at 402p, Lazard up 17p at 339p and Ultramar climbed 10p to 169p.

Trade in the gilt market remained thin, with upward pressure on short-term money rates leaving falls of 2% across the board.

Greycoat Estates proved it is a force to be reckoned with in the property world with its £36m take-over last year of City Offices, and substantial buying pushed the shares up 5p to 142p — a rise so far this week of 12p — with a decision due soon from the Environment Department on the Coln Street development proposals.

COMMODITIES

Heating oil futures hit their highest prices for three months in record trading volume. Material for delivery this month gained \$5 a tonne to \$28.40, and the May contract was \$10 higher at \$29.90. The volume was 5,115 lots.

Dealers said that three factors contributed to the upsurge. One was stronger prices and activity in New York, where gas oil stocks are low. Political tension, notably in the Middle East, also raised prices. But the most influential factor was the news that Opec output had fallen to 15.8m barrels a day.

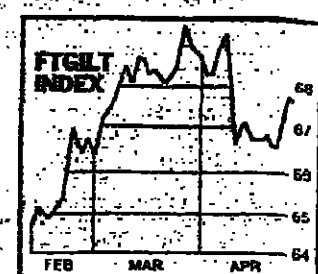
Rotterdam spot oil prices responded to the same influences, gas oil for immediate delivery putting on about \$7 a tonne to \$28.5-28.7.

Elsewhere on the London Commodity Exchange, cocoa prices fell sharply. Dealers' belief that some west African producers would sell cocoa pushed material for delivery this month down by £26 to £891 a tonne, while May cocoa lost £21 to £919.

TODAY

Board meetings: Interim: S. Casel, Lowland Investment Co, TV South-West, Finsale, Altona and Sons, Amalgamated Metal Corp, Bantala, Futura Holdings, F. Miller (Textiles), Richardson Westgarth, Savoy Hotel, Solicitors Law Stationery Society, Scottish Northern Investment Trust.

Economic statistics: Retail price index (March), tax and price index (March), new vehicle registrations (March), sales and orders in engineering (January).



Producers still gloomy over world prices

£800m N Sea oil project abandoned

Shell and Esso, announced yesterday that they have abandoned plans to develop the Tern oil field in the North Sea, an £800m project that could have provided job security for hundreds of workers in Scotland's crisis-hit offshore construction industry.

The consortium also said that it had given up any hope of developing the Elder field, another sizable oil discovery in the same part of the North Sea, in the foreseeable future.

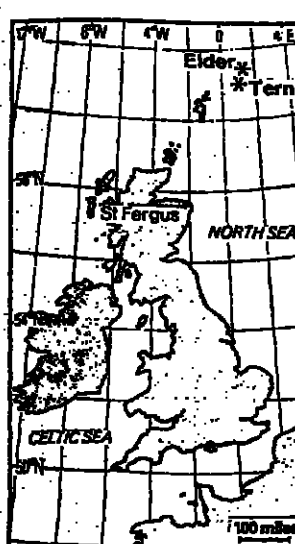
Shell, the lead partner, blamed three factors for its decision not to proceed beyond the initial conceptual engineering phase of the Tern development. They were:

• The technical risks involved in the project.
• The deteriorating outlook for world oil prices.
• What it called "the onerous tax regime" in the North Sea.

Tern due on stream in 1987 lies in 550 feet of water about 100 miles north-east of the Shetlands and contains an estimated 140 million barrels of reserves. The Elder discovery has an estimated 120 million barrels of reserves.

The decision not to proceed with either development underlines how dramatically the economics of North Sea oil development have changed in the last year, and will be a bitter blow to the offshore platform construction industry where nearly 2,000 redundancies have been announced in the last three weeks as a result of a drying up of major North Sea oil development orders.

Although Shell and Esso have warned publicly in the last few weeks that the Government's refusal to cut North Sea oil taxes would hurt future development plans, tax is not the most important reason behind yesterday's announcement. Tern was a high cost development even by North Sea standards, with a complex geological structure that would have required a large number of



water and gas injection wells to boost oil flows. Officials at the Department of Energy emphasized yesterday that Tern had been postponed rather than necessarily abandoned for all time, and noted that the field's economics had (if anything) been marginally improved by the oil tax changes in the last Budget.

The fact remains however, that fields of over 100 million barrels of reserves in the North Sea were until recently considered to be generally economically viable. Most recent discoveries in the North Sea will be smaller than 150 million barrels, so the Tern decision which implies that virtually every find will be marginal from now on could make a turning point in the history of the North Sea.

One casualty of the Tern decision will be Foster Wheeler, the engineering construction company which was in line to win a £40m contract to provide project services for the development. The move means that the partnership, which operates six of Britain's 20 producing North Sea oil fields, now has no further developments of its own in the pipeline.

Saudi output cut further

By Our Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia is continuing to produce less oil than its official production ceiling in its efforts to prevent the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries having to cut oil prices, Shaikh Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, said yesterday.

Last month Saudi Arabia, the largest single Opec producer, put out 6.7 million barrels a day against its ceiling of 7.5 million said Shaikh Yamani, and this month output is again falling short, by an undisclosed amount, of the new and lower ceiling of 7 million barrels.

Meanwhile, Dr Mana Said Oteiba, president of Opec, confirmed that the organization would give financial aid to Nigeria to help overcome the disastrous slump in its oil sales as a result of the overpricing of its oil.

In Nigeria, Mr Shehu Shagari, the country's president, has withdrawn his Budget bill only hours after it was passed by parliament and will submit a new proposal along the line with depleted oil revenues.

But at the same time Nigeria is raising \$240m on the Euro market to finance a railway between Umuahia and Enugu. The credit will be for eight years and will carry interest of 7 per cent over the London Interbank Offered Rate.

Nigeria is regarded as the weak link in Opec attempts to underpin oil prices. Its oil production is thought to be between 800,000 and 900,000 barrels a day, well below its Opec quota of 1.3 million barrels.

And some oil companies have refused to buy Nigerian oil at the official price of \$35.50 a barrel when they can get cheaper quality crude from the North Sea at \$31.

The West German Export Trade Federation yesterday warned companies not to increase trade with Nigeria, whose "demand for foreign goods is larger than its financing ability", the federation said.

Kuwait's finance minister has warned that the country faces a traumatic financial squeeze unless it can boost oil exports or trim its hefty public spending programme. Agency reports quoted the finance minister as saying that Kuwait would "go bankrupt" in four years if present trends continued.

Ex-broker on theft charges

Mr Gerald Charles Bowyer-Tagg, former senior partner in the crashed stockbroking firm Norman Collins, is due to appear in court on remand in July facing two charges of theft and one of falsifying accounts. The total sum involved is £50,000.

He was arrested at Heathrow Airport on Monday by City of London Fraud Squad officers, appeared in court on Tuesday and was remanded on £25,000 bail until July 20.

Until February last year Mr Bowyer-Tagg was the finance and administration partner of the two-man stockbroking firm Norman Collins. But on February 3 the firm was "hammered" by the Stock Exchange saying after a hearing that it could not meet its bargains. Debts were estimated at around £1m.

Mr Bowyer-Tagg was declared a defaulter and expelled from the Exchange where he had been a member since 1974. The hammering was the first for five years. But four months later it was followed by the collapse of Hedderwick, Stirling Grumbar, into whose Government Securities dealings the Fraud Squad had already been investigating. Hedderwick went down owing £6m.

PSBR well within forecast for year

By John Whitmore

The public sector borrowing requirement in the financial year just ended undercuts the Government's original estimate of £10,600m by £2,000m.

Moreover, the undershoot in the underlying PSBR was still greater. When the Treasury published separate figures for the central government borrowing requirement earlier this month, it estimated that the impact of last year's civil servants' dispute on tax revenue had been to raise the CGBR in 1981-82 by about £750m.

On the face of it, the PSBR out-turn could suggest that the Government's fiscal policy last year was tighter than it perhaps needed to be, or at least was intended to be.

However, the PSBR is

always difficult to forecast with precision since it is the difference between two very big numbers — for expenditure and revenue — which run at about £100,000m. Only small divergences from forecast in either of these figures can produce a relatively large change in the residual borrowing requirement. Indeed, on the basis of past performance the average margin of error is put at £5,000m in either direction.

The PSBR can also be difficult to track during the course of the year because of the lag with which the Treasury sees figures for local authorities and public corporations. For instance, the Treasury was still forecasting a 1981-82 PSBR of about £10,600m last month.

Business Editor, Page 23

GUS bid 'a rescue'

By Our Financial Staff

Great Universal Stores, the mail order giant which is bidding £23m for Empire Stores (Bradford), is preparing to argue before the Office of Fair Trading that the bid should not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Both hope to convince the OFT that GUS's agreed offer of one of its shares and 186p cash for every six Empire shares, is more of a rescue of the smallest of the mail order companies than an attempt to increase its domination of a market sector.

The OFT is expected to put its recommendation to the Secretary of State for Trade in about a month.

Fears that a reference was virtually automatic kept Empire's share price 10p below GUS's 114p bid price yesterday, when dealings in the shares were resumed after a 10-day suspension. Counter-bidders could be put off by GUS's announcement that it has contracts with a wide number of institutions to buy 15 per cent of Empire immediately the bid was announced.

Government inaction under attack

Women's pensions 'still unfair'

By Lorna Bourke

Successive governments have ignored inequalities between men and women in pension schemes, Baroness Lockwood, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said yesterday.

In a speech highly critical of governments' attitudes, she said: "If a fraction of the energy and sophistication which is now deployed in developing more and more ingenious arguments in favour of the status-quo were to be deployed in working out the details of the solutions — whose outlines are clear to all concerned — I believe there is no reason why the problem could not be solved within the lifetime of this Parliament."

Baroness Lockwood called on the National Association of Pension Funds — at its annual conference at Bourne-mouth — to sponsor a "state



Baroness Lockwood: Britain "out of line"

"I am sure that such a report would be very widely welcomed — not least of all by my commission."

The commission had already embarked upon a pilot study, results of which would be published as soon as available. Initial impressions were that most men and women took equal retirement ages seriously, and that many would be prepared to make a substantial financial contribution in order to bring about such equality.

Emphasising the lack of government initiative and the move being forced upon us by changes taking place within the EEC, she said, "I cannot see how Britain can avoid finding herself once again out of line with the rest of the community unless we seriously address ourselves to this issue in the near future."

Fresh hopes of buyer for De Lorean car plant

By Robert Rodwell



Sir Kenneth: did not know backer's identity

The Government backed De Lorean sports car plant in West Belfast appeared on the brink of being salvaged yesterday.

For the past six weeks the 1,500 employees at the company, which is in Receivership, have been working a one-day week producing 35 to 40 cars which have been stockpiled.

Yesterday, as the workforce expected the shutters to be pulled down on the venture, union officials met joint Receivers, Sir Kenneth Cork and Mr Paul Segwell, and were told that the legal action in New York between the Bank of America and Mr John De Lorean's New York-based marketing company, which had been blocking sales of more than 2,000 sports cars stockpiled in the United States, had been settled out of court.

The Bank is to release those cars on which it has a charge, in respect of loans granted to Mr De Lorean's company and these will now be forwarded to retail dealers.

In addition, it is expected that 1,000 cars will be bought or leased almost immediately by the coast-to-coast Budget-Rent-A-Car chain.

Sir Kenneth said that within the last few days proposals for financing further production and for the acquisition of the Belfast factory had been received from Mr De Lorean. These provided the basis for an agreement and were being studied and while discussion

continue jobs at the Belfast plant will be safeguarded.

He admitted that he did not know the identity of Mr De Lorean's new backer but said that his lawyers were in negotiation with those operating for the unnamed financier.

If a firm agreement resulted, Sir Kenneth said, his impression was that the new backer, rather than Mr De Lorean, would be very much in charge of both the American and Northern Ireland companies.

Meanwhile, production is to continue at least until the end of May. The Belfast company has itself concluded the sale of 200 cars which have been stockpiled at the city's docks.

The revenue from this sale has given the Belfast operation scope for a few more weeks above and beyond the £5m provided by the Northern Ireland Office for the Receivers as interim finance when the company collapsed in February.

It is understood that the destination of these cars is the Middle East — the first market outside the United States where the stainless steel sports car has been sold. Fifty were shipped from Belfast a few days ago bound for Kuwait and Dubai.

Sales to the Middle East can be started immediately as cars with United States certification are acceptable there.

The marketing of the presently left-hand drive car in Continental Europe cannot begin until some minor re-engineering to meet European standards has been done, while no right-hand-drive model for the United Kingdom and other markets has yet been developed.

Poles want new terms on debts

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Western banks will have to agree to delay interest as well as capital repayments on Poland's debts if agreement is to be reached on a 1982 rescheduling, it was indicated in London yesterday.

Mr Zygmunt Krolak, commercial counsellor at the Polish Embassy, said it would be necessary for commercial banks to adopt a similar line to Western governments which agreed to reschedule 90 per cent of the interest due to them in 1981 as part of the 1981 rescheduling terms.

Poland is due to repay \$10,000m (about £5,650m) in 1982 of which \$3,000m is interest. Mr Krolak said Poland's ability to repay part of the interest would depend on whether new credits were available so that Poland could buy spare parts and raw materials to restore its economy.

Although production was 10 per cent down in the first quarter of 1982, compared with the 1981 first quarter, Mr Krolak said the rate of decline had slowed and output and exports in the mining industry had improved. However, increased foreign exchange earnings from these sources would have to be diverted to buying spares and materials for industry.

The target for hard currency earnings in 1982 is \$6,000m and a positive balance of trade with western economies is expected for the first time since the early seventies.

Mr Krolak pointed to extensive moves towards reform of the economy including new pricing levels and the introduction of market forces in the economy and

moves towards the decentralization of planning.

Western bankers are unlikely to take kindly to the idea of rescheduling interest payments. Talks have not yet begun on a 1982 rescheduling because of the refusal of governments to negotiate through the Paris Club until military rule had been relaxed in Poland.

Polish officials are expected to meet bankers in London next month to tie up the technical details of the 1981 rescheduling but it is not clear whether 1982 rescheduling will also be discussed.

Poland is already seriously behind on the interest payments originally due in 1982 and bankers believe there could be serious consequences if payments on the rescheduled amounts are not met.

CLIFFORD'S DAIRIES plc

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1981

- *Pre-tax profit up 53% from £2.16 million to £3.3 million
- *Higher volumes in most areas of our business, particularly for fruit juice
- *Total dividend increased by 25% to 5p per share net
- *£3 million invested in new buildings, plant and vehicles, including completion of the Kidlington juice factory
- *Total borrowings reduced by over £1 million

Four Years Progress

£000	1981	1980	1979	1978
Turnover	55,894	49,479	41,638	29,119
Profit before taxation	3,300	2,156	2,279	1,490
Profit after taxation	2,448	2,480	1,731	921
Dividend —				
per share	5.0p	4.0p	3.0p	2.1p
times covered	4.8	5.1	5.9	4.5
Earnings per share	20.13p	21.95p	17.21p	11.27p

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 1981 may be obtained from The Secretary, Clifford's Dairies plc, Western Rd., Brackley, Berkshire RG12 1QA.

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

A question of timing for Associated Dairies

Waiting for expansion to pay off

In 1973 Associated Dairies Group (ADG) went into furniture and carpets in search of higher margins than in its cornerstone market of groceries only to find itself in the worst recession for years in the home furnishings market (Derek Harris writes).

There are two questions as the group nears the end of its trading year early next month. One, will results from furniture and carpets be as bad as in the first half when trading profits plunged nearly 80 per cent.

Two, how far is the furnishing division ready to gain from any economic upturn?

The fact that the group is now ready to talk more freely about what has been going on in Allied Carpets and what is now the Wades chain of furniture stores is probably encouraging in itself. Mr Roy Bousfield, ADG's managing director and vice-chairman, agrees that the question the group has to face is whether it took over the two concerns, including the Williams furnishing stores chain that went with Allied, at the right time. "We do not feel we moved at the wrong time," he added.

Sales have been hit — 10 per cent off at Allied Carpets which as Britain's largest specialist carpet retailer has been the most exposed to recessionary effects on trade — but both Allied and Wades are in profit, according to Mr Bousfield. Wades, which has almost doubled in size with conversions of 37 old down-market Williams stores, has had sales increases of 6 per cent.

With 72 outlets Wades now has increased purchasing power, able to buy at keener prices. Inflation in furniture prices has been well below the Retail Price Index rate anyway so by simply pegging



Noel Stockdale, chairman of Associated Dairies

prices in the Wades outlets gross margins have benefited.

An extensive refurbishing programme, £12m at Allied Carpets over three years as the chain has been taken slightly up-market, and £3m at Wades over 18 months, is now shelved.

That puts the furnishing division ready in the new financial year, to feed any extra trade straight to the bottom line. But of this current year's trade Mr John Elston, of stockbrokers James Capel, estimates there could be £1m profits apiece from Allied and Wades, modifying the decline year-on-year to 62 per cent.

The two Ukay furniture stores in London at Olympia and Bow are being retained even though a net profit is not being looked for by Mr Bousfield. Mr Elston estimates a £300,000 loss compared with £1.5m the previous year.

Although in both furniture and carpets customers during the worst of the recession may have been trading a far down the

market as possible where they were buying at all, there are good arguments especially on margins for the current market position of both Allied and Wades. Mr Bousfield believes that easing on the mortgage front and a construction upturn could begin to show in furnishing trade within two of three months.

He believes Allied can reclaim its sales losses — it has not shed any of its 10 per cent market share — and that the Wades turnover can be geared up further.

Sales of carpets at Wades, accounting for 12 per cent of the selling area, are up by 90 per cent and bedding sales have also increased.

The potential of Allied and Wades, with new store openings still to come, seems undoubted once the economic situation improves. That with some uncertainty still about the ability of the Asda stores operation to regain its old momentum, nevertheless could mean still unexciting results

in the first half of the next financial year.

The Elston forecast is that up to £59m pre-tax this year (7.8p earnings per share and a multiple of 17.2) could rise in 1982-83 some 10 per cent to £65m (earnings per share 8.6p and a multiple of 15.6).

Divided views on Ferranti

High technology defence equipment such as the weapons control systems designed for the Royal Navy by the electronics group Ferranti may be used in earnest in the South Atlantic. But it is difficult to say whether such anticipation has been behind this week's steady rise in the Ferranti share price as several factors may be at play (Drew Johnson writes).

Ferranti is strongly fancied as a candidate for takeover. Its expertise and growth potential in defence and electronics make it an attractive prospect. Plessey, Racal-Decca and GCE all being spoken of as possible suitors. An overseas bid is probably ruled out on security grounds.

Opinion is divided on what to do with Ferranti shares. Stockbrokers Hoare Govett are bearish on the grounds that the institutions which took Ferranti stock from the National Enterprise Board in 1980 will be free to dispose of their holdings from July.

They argue that the institutional sale will result in significant price weakness. They also think there will be no bid for the company before July.

But other brokers say that the steady improvements in the internal operation could lead to a substantial profits rise over the next couple of years. One analyst said he would be loath to suggest the share price is currently too high, at its present level — 687p per share.

For the year just ended, there seems to be agreement that pre-tax profits will be around £23m,

against last year's £18m. Analysts expect an increase in the payout and forecast a prospective dividend yield of 1.6 per cent.

Next year, pre-tax profits are expected to touch £28m. The company is currently trading at around 26 times fully taxed earnings, but some analysts think that judged on the trading potential this should be 4 or 5 points less.

Confidence in Ferranti's strongly improved efficiency is underlined to some extent by its relatively high dependence on United Kingdom public sector business.

Earlier this month the share price was given a slight boost from the formal signing of a £49m contract for the design and supply of weapons systems for the Brazilian navy. The deal was agreed last autumn, but could now be in jeopardy if the Organisation of American States sides with Argentina and acts against imports from the United Kingdom.

Cash call at Steel Bros

Steel Brothers, as widely tipped, called on shareholders yesterday to raise £4.5m to finance both past and future expansion, (Margaret Pagano writes).

The rights issue is at 170p a share on a one-for-four basis. The group's shares jumped 25p to 230p on the news — well above the year's low of 205p.

The cash call comes to repay some of the money borrowed from Steel's bankers over the last year to support its many expansion projects in the United States and Canada. Last year saw the group invest £2.8m in the part cost of building a new lime plant in Montana; it bought and improved lime operations at Tacoma, Washington for \$5.5m (£3.2m); doubled capacity of its Pavilion Lake for \$5.7m, and constructed a bulk lime terminal in Canada. About £3.5m from the issue will

be repaid and the balance will go to reduce borrowings, which, at £26m at the year end, represent a 7 per cent gearing ratio to shareholders' funds.

Steel, which earns 90 per cent of its profits overseas, continues its two-pronged policy of expansion — into developing its rock and construction business in the United States and diversifying the foodstuffs interest into the Far East and other markets.

Signs of improved demand for both its main businesses came with full year figures for the year to December. Pre-tax profits are up 41 per cent to £7.8m on turnover higher by £10m at £110.6m. At the trading level profits were £15.4m against £10.4m and a profit breakdown shows foodstuffs (covering wholesaling and trading, canteen, diners and airport packed meals) up to £4.1m against £2.9m. Rock and construction profits rose to £2.3m against £1.9m.

Better trading in most markets lies behind the increase and Steel is now looking to develop its Spinney foodstuffs concern, so far mainly concentrated in the Middle East, into the Far East. Airflight packed meals in the United Kingdom out of Gatwick are only a small operation — the group lost the Laker contract — but expansion here is also planned.

A final dividend of 9.2p gross is being paid, making a total of 13.7p compared with 11.4p last time.

A recent revaluation of the group's land and buildings, excluding limestone and gravel land, disclosed an unrealized surplus of £5.4m which has been taken into accounts. Results have also benefited from lower sterling rates on profits earned overseas. But interest charges, up at £4.4m against £2.4m, were an additional burden.

Mr Anthony De Boer, chairman, says the group's other activities made small, but useful, profits despite difficult trading. Signs are, he adds, the recession may have reached its lowest point

US airline warned by auditor over debts

Oakland, California, April 22. — World Airways, one of several United States airlines hard hit by recession, has been warned by its auditors that it may be unable to continue in business because of a cash shortage.

But the former leading charter flight operator, which joined scheduled carriers when President Carter deregulated the domestic airline business in 1978, said yesterday it was optimistic it could reschedule its debt payments.

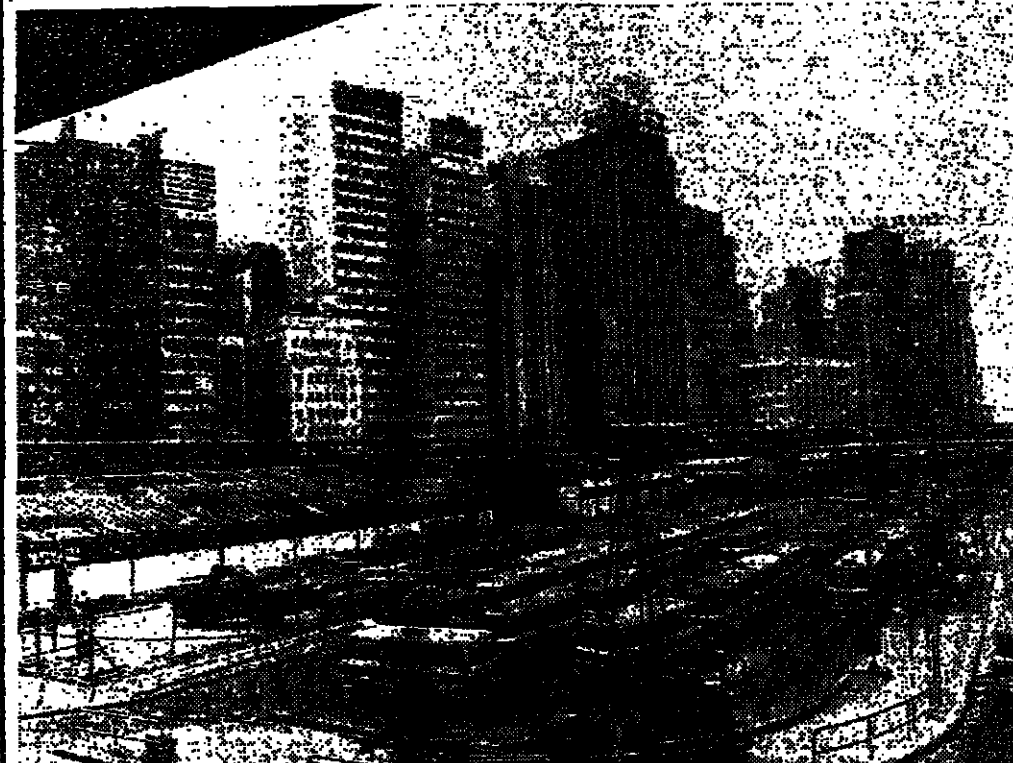
A report by auditors Peat, Marwick, Mitchell said that a greater-than-expected 1981 loss of \$20.2m (£11.3m) could prevent the airline from continuing its operations because of its needs to repay debts.

World Airways, which operates transatlantic routes, had been anticipating its 1981 losses would be \$12m to \$15m after a 1980 deficit of \$28m.

It blamed the dismal 1981 results largely on interest expenses of over \$50m, but said that talks with its creditors in extending payments falling due over the next 14 months were progressing satisfactorily.

Other leading American airlines are also in difficulty. Texas-based Braffitt, struggling to overcome losses totalling \$310m over the past three years and is trying to restructure debts of more than \$730m.

American Airlines, the country's third largest commercial carrier, has just reported pre-tax losses of \$75.4m in the first quarter of this year compared with a profit last year of \$4.1m. — Reuters.



Work has begun on site (above) for Hongkong's unified Stock Exchange, which will replace the existing buildings, after Hongkong Land's \$432m acquisition of the land in Causeway Road Central. Under the terms of the tender by which the group bought the 144,200 sq ft site it must provide a bus station covered by a two-storey podium to house the Stock Exchange, but above this offices can be built to a maximum height of 600 feet.

Sizable job cuts loom at ICI

By Rupert Morris

The broadest hint yet that substantial redundancies are on the way at Imperial Chemical Industries was given yesterday by Mr John Harvey-Jones, the company's new chairman.

Radical rationalization "on a European scale" was necessary in plastics and petrochemicals, Mr Harvey-Jones told ICI's annual meeting in London. It was his first direct contact with shareholders since he succeeded Sir Maurice Hodgson as chairman at the beginning of the month.

He saw the problem as similar to that which once existed in the fibres sector. The halving of the fibres workforce from 18,000 to 9,000 in the past 10 years was masterminded by Mr Harvey-Jones.

Rationalization, he told the meeting, would include portfolio exchanges and closure of inefficient and older plants.



John Harvey-Jones: pursuit of efficiency.

A poor start to the year meant "economic recovery had been delayed," he said. "Hence we cannot afford to let up in our pursuit of further efficiency and operating economies."

He said it might take longer than the company would like to return every sector to profitability, and stressed that there was no question of leaving Britain.

Cost reductions, technology advances, and export breakthroughs had, however, combined to produce a realistic sense of "confidence".

"One expression of this confidence is the partially restored dividend. It is our firm intention to improve the return to shareholders as soon as earnings permit."

Improvements of up to 40 per cent in energy efficiency at new plants were another significant advance, he said.

"Any general caution I have," he said, "is not about ICI's ability, but about the economic climate and its uncertainties."

Anxiety about job losses has, however, prompted the seven trade unions at ICI to form a national joint body to discuss the company's strategy with directors. The unions remain extremely concerned that ICI is directing most of its energies to overseas expansion at the expense of the British workforce.

Document exchange centres licensed

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Over 100 document exchange centres in the United Kingdom have formally been awarded licences by the Department of Industry to deliver mail to each other.

Prior to the granting of these licences documents have only been deposited and collected by the members of a particular exchange.

The licence is general not requiring individual applications and is effective immediately.

Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for industry, who published the licence yesterday, said: "These measures will both stimulate the Post Office to greater efficiency, through introducing an element of competition into the postal monopoly, and will benefit the customer by giving him the choice of service in areas where this is desirable."

Document exchanges have grown in popularity over the last five years and have been largely used by lawyers and bankers for the exchange of confidential paperwork. The Post Office has its own service based in the Stock Exchange called Exchange-post.

Most of the exchanges have been transmitting documents to each other since the passage of the British Telecommunications Act last July.

The licence completes the programme for liberalizing the postal system. Other measures include the issuing of a general licence which enables charities to deliver Christmas cards and the suspension of the Post Office monopoly on time sensitive material provided that the charge is greater than £1 a letter.

FIRST LOCAL ICI CENTRE OPENS

ICI has opened at Reading the first of its planned computer centres. Seven more are scheduled for London, Croydon, Bristol, Manchester, Wakefield, Birmingham and Edinburgh, and others outside the United Kingdom will bring the total to over 40.

The centres will concentrate on making local businessmen aware of the benefits of computers by "taking the jargon and the mystique out of computers."

Sperry has announced details of its computer-aided design (CAD) and manufacturing programs (CAM) for its computer systems.

The system UNIS-CAD will speed up design of products with higher quality and lower cost, Sperry claims. It allows all aspects of design engineering and manufacturing to operate from "one bank in one computer."



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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTERNATIONAL



Inflation in US 'could fall to 3pc'

United States inflation could fall to 3 per cent by the end of this year, according to a report from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The report, which is the first since the bank's annual meeting in January, says that the consumer price index rose by 7.7 per cent in March, compared with 8.4 per cent in February. The report also says that the core inflation rate, which excludes food and energy, rose by 6.5 per cent in March, compared with 7.1 per cent in February.

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss Federal Banking Commission is investigating three banks that have been charged with involvement in the illegal flight of capital to Switzerland. The banks under investigation are Banque Occidentale, Banque de l'Industrie et du Commerce, and Banque de l'Industrie et du Commerce.

GUYANA

Guyana has announced the first oil find 200 miles south of Georgetown. A statement from the Ministry of Energy and Mines described the discovery as encouraging but added that reserves must be assessed before any commercial development can be contemplated.

AUSTRALIA

Australia's consumer price index rose 35.1 in the first quarter, up 1.7 per cent from the last quarter of last year and 10.5 per cent from March last year.

HONGKONG

Union Carbide said it has sold a 50 per cent stake in a Taiwan petrochemical venture, after seeking a buyer for more than a year. The United States company sold its 25 per cent share of Oriental Union Chemical to Central Investment Holding on January 18, according to Mr. L. E. Law, chairman of Union Carbide Eastern, a subsidiary.

JAPAN

Japan's gold imports surged last month to a record 55.7 tonnes, more than triple February's imports and nearly five times more than in March last year.

Advertising: an unstoppable boom?

Advertising expenditure on television and in the national press has increased rapidly in the first quarter of the year and industry economists are forecasting an advertising boom which could turn 1983 into the best year yet for the industry.

Independent Television's net advertising revenue rose by 25.7 per cent in the first three months of this year compared with the same period last year. Figures for press expenditure are harder to come by, since, unlike ITV, Fleet Street does not publish its monthly revenue figures.

However, predictions from the Advertising Association, which says that the advertising industry is growing at a rate of 10 per cent a year, suggest that the boom in television advertising is likely to be matched by a similar boom in the press.

Mr. Mike Waterson, the Advertising Association's director of research, is quoted as saying that the boom in television advertising is likely to be matched by a similar boom in the press.

Other factors have fuelled the television spending boom, says Mr. Waterson. "There is evidence to show that television expenditure tends to recover from recessionary conditions rather more rapidly than other sectors of expenditure, and this could well be due to the fact that heavy TV advertisers tend to be concentrated in sectors of the economy which recover from the recession rather early in the trade cycle."

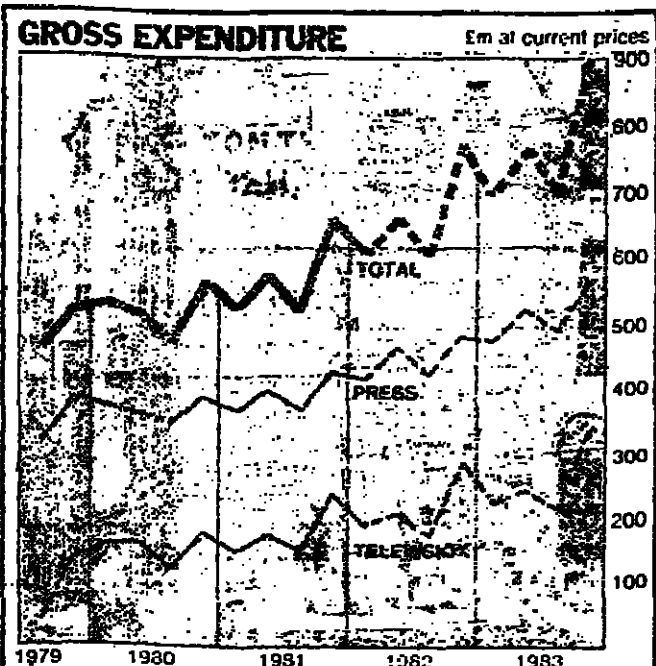
"If this assumption is correct, the next two years should be good ones for most sectors of expenditure, unless the Government continues to follow the monetarist flag with much greater fervour than seen before."

The boom in television revenue began in the third quarter last year, which saw the ITV contractors' revenue grow by 25 per cent on the same period the previous year.

The following quarter, which takes in the pre-Christmas rush and is ITV's best time of the year, saw an increase of 31 per cent. Other media, meanwhile, were still showing little or no increase and it is only in the last three months that the press has begun to experience the advertising revival.

"The most likely explanation for the sudden growth of TV advertising is that the turning point for the profitability of consumer goods industries occurred in the middle of 1981, well before any change in industrial and intermediate goods markets," says Mr. Waterson.

Other factors have fuelled the television spending boom, says Mr. Waterson.



Because the amount of television advertising per hour is restricted, by Government (unlike that in newspapers, which can simply print more pages) the cost of airtime, and hence revenue, is directly linked to demand. Recently the TV contractors have been very successful in increasing this demand.

While the major TV boom has happened already and its revenue will more or less settle down now on a steadily rising graph over the next two years, national newspapers are set for a boost over the next six months, says the Advertising Association.

increase in advertising expenditure of five per cent in each of the next two years, which would bring total spending to over £3,000m — a record in real terms.

Some observers, however, are less optimistic than the Advertising Association. One reservation they have is that the new advertisers who have been attracted to television in recent years do not necessarily have the fundamental belief in the value of advertising for the success of their products that the traditional brand advertisers have.

The new advertisers, so the argument goes, such as retailers, motors and entertainment firms, are not believers in the long-term value of advertising but use it for tactical short-term benefits, rather than in strategic brand-building terms.

In other words, the current boom, built as it has been largely on the revenue of new types of advertiser, might not be as stable as it seems.

There is another argument which is linked to that. Ironically, as economic conditions improve, we might find that firms aren't having to advertise so much," says Mike Chapman, vice-chairman of Ogilvy and Mather.

"One reason we have done so well recently is that firms have been having to compete very hard to survive, advertising heavily to get rid of surplus product."

Overall, the Advertising Association forecasts a real

each product is clearly labelled on the shelf edge.

Curiously in the United States, where the scanning movement is about five years ahead of Britain and nearly 5,000 supermarkets are now involved, retailers are only just beginning to give up item price marking. They are meeting fierce resistance from consumer organisations claiming that shoppers need to see the price of everything in their trolley or basket as they go round the store. In the United Kingdom, the Article Numbering Association and supermarkets with trial systems have tried to consult consumer groups and there has been little opposition.

In the United States, the manpower has been at the check-out counter, where supermarkets traditionally operated with two employees: one to ring up prices and the other to put the customer's purchases into a bag. Scanning is so much faster than entering prices on a traditional cash register that one person can now do both operations.

Most of the scanners available in Europe are based on American technology, because of the United States' head start in supermarket scanning. IBM has taken an early lead in the embryonic British market, winning the majority of orders for trial systems. The company's latest 3687 scanner is believed to be the first commercial application of holographic technology, the technique of using three-dimensional images.

Beaming in on supermarkets

TECHNOLOGY: LASERS

By Clive Cookson

Nearly three-quarters of the items checked out of Britain's supermarkets now bear a bar code, the parallel lines of varying width which a computer can scan with a laser to identify the product and its price.

That means the grocery trade is about to pass the magic point at which manufacturers are bar-coding enough goods to make laser scanning an attractive commercial proposition. Industry experts generally put the critical proportion between 70 and 80 per cent of sales volume.

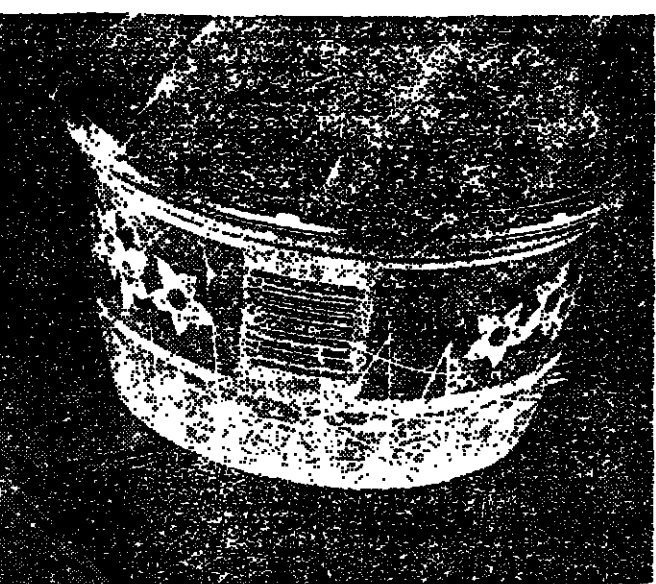
During the two and a half years since Keymarkets opened Britain's first scanning supermarket only 10 stores have introduced the technology on a trial basis. But the total will increase three-fold this year, led by Tesco which plans to install scanners in 15 supermarkets by the end of 1982.

Next year, after the trials are complete, the retail trade is likely to plunge into scanning on a far larger scale, and growth should continue at an exponential rate until the end of the decade. The market survey firm, A. C. Nielson, has

estimated that the number of scanning shops will pass 1,000 between 1985 and 1990. The Distributive Trade Economic Development Committee (EDC), in a report on new technology published this week, forecast that this mark would be reached nearer the beginning than the end of Neilson's four-year period. It points out that Spar, the voluntary group of independent small supermarkets, expects at least 1,000 of its members to be scanning by 1990.

It is clear from the EDC that, for most British shoppers, widespread laser scanning will be the first major manifestation of the electronic revolution in the distributive trades. Others, such as armchair shopping from home via data terminals and electronic funds transfer (the "cashless society") lie further into the future.

All scanners incorporate a low-power laser, which the check-out operator activates automatically by passing an item over a glass window on the counter. Within the machine, rapidly rotating mirrors or prisms break the



Laser beams criss-cross a margarine pot as it is pushed over an IBM 3687 scanner window at a supermarket check-out. Each line of light is the trace of an extremely fast moving spot.

laser light into a series of fast moving beams.

When a beam crosses the bar code, the machine detects the width and distribution of the lines, and its computer converts the pattern into the 13-digit number assigned to a particular product under an international convention. The number is instantly transmitted to an electronic price file which relays the product's price and description back to the register.

The information is shown on a display panel and simultaneously printed on the customer's till receipt with, for the first time, a brief description of purchases

rather than just a price list.

The data is even more useful to the supermarket, because it makes electronic stock control and re-ordering far more efficient. The Article Numbering Association (ANA), the trade body which administers and promotes bar-coding in Britain, has already formulated a set of standards for electronic communications between retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers.

The most visible benefit for supermarkets is that staff are relieved of the chore of marking the price on every item, so long as the price of

Business Editor

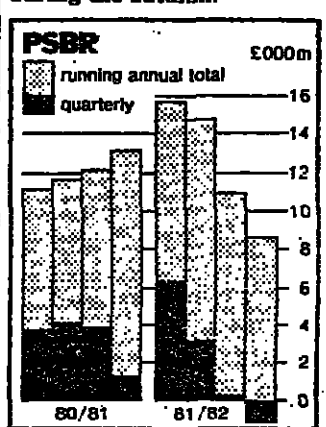
Was fiscal policy too tight?

A public sector borrowing requirement of £8,600m for the financial year just ended against an original estimate — only recently confirmed, moreover — of £10,600m is bound to be taken as penetrating ammunition by critics of Government policy. Indeed, when one allows for the adverse impact on Government revenue of the civil servants' dispute, the undershoot is larger still.

But in what senses does this add up to a suitable case for criticism? Most obviously, it is tempting to suggest that the Treasury got it wrong and the result has been that much of last year's tightening of the fiscal stance and raising of the tax burden was unnecessary. Yet the outcome is just about on the periphery of the accepted norms for margin of error (based on past experience), was apparently not visible to the Treasury even a few weeks ago, and had far more to do with the financial behaviour of local authorities than central government.

But if one accepts the margin of error argument, together with that of the short-term invisibility of what goes on outside Whitehall, is that good enough? For a start, a £3,000m margin of error in either direction — total range £6,000m — is fairly critical in the context of a monetary policy that is (or ought to be) trying to avoid over-funding yet fine-tune monetary growth within 4 per cent band worth about £3,500m.

The answer is that we probably have to live with the imperfections of an imprecise system and apply flexibility where it appears appropriate. Whether the PSBR will undershoot significantly this year too remains to be seen. Certainly, some analysts are expecting enough room for a little fiscal flexibility during the autumn.



Dunlop Optimism

In its first year divorced from Firell, Dunlop has slipped from £10m pre-tax profit to break-even as finance charges of £45m

have wiped out pre-interest profits. Net losses per share have deteriorated dramatically, from 11.3p to 29.4p, but these bald figures conceal the company's official optimism that the critical British tyre business is definitely recovering and could be in the black in 1982.

Total sales rose by 5 per cent last year to £1,456m, to which tyres contributed £88m against £743m in 1980. Despite losing £16m at the operating level in the United Kingdom, and another £2m elsewhere in EEC, tyres made a worldwide operating profit of £24m.

Hopes for the British market are based on higher shares of the original and replacement markets. Losses fell from £11m in the first half of 1981 to £5m in the second half and current trading is profitable.

Sizeable asset sales are unlikely this year, so the company will be dependent on its underlying trading. The British workforce has been slashed to 24,000 in five years as part of Dunlop's drive to higher productivity. Financing charges fell by £4m, and despite year-end gross borrowings being £35m higher at £363m, predominantly because of the cost of consolidating Dunlop France, net borrowings are down. But they are still more than 90 per cent of equity and Dunlop desperately need to maintain the recent progress in tyres and improve trading cash now.

BAe Buying Sperry

British Aerospace's £45m purchase of Sperry Gyroscopes effectively concentrates the British electronic weapons industry in the hands of five large groups — the others being GEC, Ferranti, Plessey and Racal — but the deal has attracted no objections from the Ministry of Defence.

Sperry Gyroscopes, whose sales bounded from £38m in 1979 to £65m in the year to the end of March, will become the fifth division of BAe's Dynamics Group whose turnover last year was running at £453m. Sperry's pre-tax earnings of about £5.5m for its last year compare with the Dynamics Group's contribution of £33m to BAe's total trading profit for 1981 of £95m.

The sale will provide Sperry's parent, the United States with much needed cash to relieve its short-term debt burden, while BAe will gain from the injection of some more advanced technology particularly in the underwater weapons systems area where it has been keen to expand.

Points made by the Chairman, Michael H Caine

Booker McConnell's profit before tax in 1981 was 20% higher than in 1980. Encouraging increases have been achieved in Food Distribution and Agriculture, and action has been taken to eliminate losses in a number of the engineering businesses.

Divisional performance

The Food Distribution Division increased its profit by 42%. Net margins increased and these businesses are now on the way to producing an attractive return.

Agriculture had a healthy increase in profit. In the USA Arbor Acres had a highly profitable year although Nicholas Turkey was less successful. From its UK base Booker Agriculture International increased its profit. Each of these three businesses, forming the Ibec group, has a leading position in specialist markets which allows scope for continuing expansion.

In Engineering, Plenty returned to a satisfactory level of profit. SPP with higher sales also did well. Fletcher and Stewart and Fletcher Sutcliffe Wild each suffered from much lower sales. A number of the smaller businesses have been sold or rationalised.

Health Products Trading had a mixed result. UK profits from health foods and chemists' shops moved forward strongly but the North American businesses suffered losses due to development expenditure.

Summary of Results		1981	1980
Turnover	£m	933	834
Profit before tax attributable to Booker McConnell	£m	15.3	12.8
Equity earnings	pence	12.7	11.8
Earnings per share:			
historical cost basis	pence	10.2	9.5
current cost basis	pence	5.4	3.9
Dividends per share	pence	3.5	3.1

Keen Cast
CAST & CARRY

Budgen
SUPERMARKETS

ALLISON
STONEGROUND FLOUR

341
AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Plenty
EQUIPMENT FOR THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRIES

BOOKER LINE
SHIPPING

ITALVINI
WINE

Tia Maria
LIQUEUR

LAMBS
NAVY RUM

Booker McConnell
FOOD FOR SUCCESS
AND A GREAT DEAL MORE BESIDES

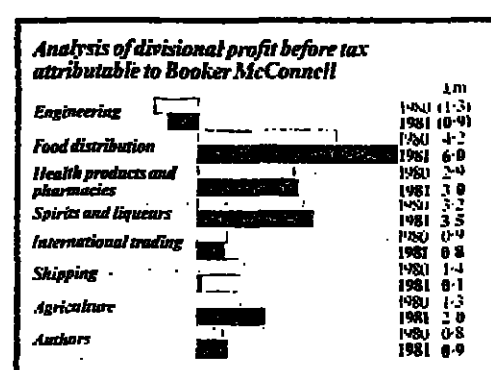
In Spirits and Liqueurs, sales volumes generally were lower although better margins secured a satisfactory profit.

In Shipping, Coe Metcalfe had great success whilst the Booker Line made a substantial loss, partly due to the seamen's strike.

The Authors' Division profit reflected Agatha Christie's continuing popularity.

Prospects for 1982

There is still much to do to restore earnings per share to the levels of 1978 and 1979.



Food Distribution will increasingly benefit from the rationalisation of recent acquisitions. There are attractive growth points outside the traditional wholesale businesses — in fresh, frozen and specialist foods and in wine. A profit is expected in Engineering with contributions from all the businesses except Fletcher and Stewart.

In Health Products Trading there will continue to be high costs in planned marketing development in the USA and the launch of new products in the UK. Another increase is hoped for in Spirits and Liqueurs. In Shipping, the Booker Line's prospect remains uncertain. Ibec should again increase its profit.

In total the improvement in profit achieved in 1981 is expected to continue into 1982. The move to a higher level of profit is apparent in many of the businesses. The corner has been turned.

To: Booker McConnell PLC, Bucklersbury House, 83 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3EF. I would like to know more about Booker McConnell. Please send me a copy of your report and accounts.

Name _____

Address _____

Booker McConnell PLC



Gold mining companies administered by Anglo American Corporation

All companies are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

Orange Free State

Reports of the Directors for the quarter ended March 31, 1982

FREE STATE GEDULD

Free State Geduld Mines Limited

ISSUED CAPITAL: 10 440 000 shares of 50 cents each

OPERATING RESULTS

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Tons milled 000	135	144	279
Yield—g/t	721	735	728
Production—kg	9 781	10 596	20 377
Cost—R/square metres mined	6 496	5 762	6 129
R/ton milled	328.04	286.19	307.45
R/kg produced	82.73	36.25	59.46
R/kg produced	6 962	6 114	6 530

JOINT METALLURGICAL SCHEME

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Tons 000	629	657	1 286
Head grade	0.52	0.47	0.49
Yield—g/t	0.89	0.99	0.94
Production—kg	1 022	1 022	2 044

PRICE RECEIVED ON SALES

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Gold—R/oz	11 727	13 257	12 707
Costs	287	427	400

FINANCIAL RESULTS

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Gold—Revenue	13 000	13 000	13 000
Costs	43 231	41 541	84 772
Profit	36 075	36 075	36 075
Joint Metallurgical Scheme profit	3 782	3 782	7 564
Net sundry income	40 857	39 857	80 714
Provision for taxation and State's share of profit	4 878	18 340	23 218
Profit after taxation and State's share of profit	35 979	21 517	57 496

Deduct:

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Appropriation for capital expenditure	52 095	52 095	104 190
Dividend—interim	4 122	4 122	8 244
Retained profit for the six months	23 552	22 547	46 100

Capital expenditure

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Tonnage milled and treated for President Brand Gold Mines Limited	36 000	—	36 000
At cost plus a service charge	—	—	—

DEVELOPMENT

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Advance metres	14 436	14 436	28 872
Channel width cm	37.8	37.8	75.6
Gold g/t	27.83	27.83	55.66
Uranium g/t	0.57	0.57	1.14
Cost—R/square metres mined	14 436	14 436	28 872
R/ton milled	14 436	14 436	28 872
R/kg produced	14 436	14 436	28 872

During the quarter 51 metres were developed on the Kimberley 'A' reef in the Nos. 2 and 4 shafts. There were no sampling results.

The development reported includes development by the company in the areas under tribute from Free State Development and Investment Corporation Limited and Western Holdings Limited.

DIVIDEND

The interim dividend of 160 cents a share in respect of the year ending September 30 1982 was declared on April 22 1982 payable to members registered on May 14 1982 and will be paid on or about June 11 1982.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

In view of the current low gold price some capital expenditure has been deferred and it is now estimated to total R12 000 000 (previously R12 500 000) for the year ending September 30 1982.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS

Orders placed and outstanding on capital contracts as at March 31 1982 totalled R9 989 000.

DAMAGE TO NOS. 1 AND 4 SHAFTS

The damage to the mine's Nos. 1 and 4 shafts and the associated workings resulting from the five seismic events which occurred on April 13 1982 has now been assessed. It is estimated that sufficient repair work will have been completed by the first week in May to enable both shafts to recommence operations. The shafts will be repaired and reinforced by the use of concrete and steelwork. Access ways to some of the higher grade workings have been damaged and repair crews are at work to re-open them. It will then take about three weeks to get the mine back to full production.

As many as possible of the production teams from the Nos. 1 and 4 shafts have been redeployed elsewhere on the mine. However, once Nos. 1 and 4 shafts are fully operational towards the end of May, production will be as arranged as to regain the gold production lost in the affected areas. Thus, by September 1982, despite an estimated shortfall of 70 000 tons milled, actual gold production from these high-grade shafts should be close to the original forecast for the year.

For and on behalf of the board
G. LANGTON Directors
G. S. YOUNG

April 23 1982

WESTERN HOLDINGS

Western Holdings Limited

ISSUED CAPITAL: 14 334 378 shares of 50 cents each

OPERATING RESULTS

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Tons milled 000	376	358	734
Yield—g/t	1 922	1 922	3 844
Production—kg	7 236	6 888	14 124
Cost—R/square metres mined	9 948	9 948	19 896
R/ton milled	265.37	280.12	272.75
R/kg produced	40.27	39.16	39.71
R/kg produced	9 948	9 948	19 896

JOINT METALLURGICAL SCHEME

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Tons 000	2 858	2 858	5 716
Head grade	0.58	0.58	1.16
Yield—g/t	0.16	0.16	0.32
Production—kg	454	454	908
Cost—R/square metres mined	9 948	9 948	19 896
R/ton milled	9 948	9 948	19 896
R/kg produced	9 948	9 948	19 896

PRICE RECEIVED ON SALES

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Gold—R/oz	11 754	13 200	12 545
Costs	387	425	812

FINANCIAL RESULTS

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Gold—Revenue	13 000	13 000	13 000
Costs	43 231	41 541	84 772
Profit	36 075	36 075	36 075
Joint Metallurgical Scheme profit	3 782	3 782	7 564
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Dividend—interim	4 122	4 122	8 244
Retained profit for the six months	23 552	22 547	46 100

Capital expenditure

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Tonnage milled and treated for President Brand Gold Mines Limited	36 000	—	36 000
At cost plus a service charge	—	—	—

DEVELOPMENT

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Advance metres	14 436	14 436	28 872
Channel width cm	37.8	37.8	75.6
Gold g/t	27.83	27.83	55.66
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R/ton milled	14 436	14 436	28 872
R/kg produced	14 436	14 436	28 872

During the quarter 51 metres were developed on the Kimberley 'A' reef in the Nos. 2 and 4 shafts. There were no sampling results.

The development reported includes development by the company in the areas under tribute from Free State Development and Investment Corporation Limited and Western Holdings Limited.

DIVIDEND

The interim dividend of 175 cents a share in respect of the year ending September 30 1982 was declared on April 22 1982 payable to members registered on May 14 1982 and will be paid on or about June 11 1982.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

In view of the current low gold price some capital expenditure has been deferred and it is now estimated to total R12 000 000 (previously R12 500 000) for the year ending September 30 1982.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS

Orders placed and outstanding on capital contracts as at March 31 1982 totalled R12 500 000.

For and on behalf of the board

D. A. ETHEREDGE Directors
G. S. YOUNG

April 23 1982

DEVELOPMENT

Sampled

Advance metres

Channel width cm

Gold g/t

Uranium g/t

Cost—R/square metres mined

R/ton milled

R/kg produced

R/kg produced

R/kg produced

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R/kg produced

PRESIDENT BRAND

President Brand Gold Mining Limited

ISSUED CAPITAL: 14 040 000 units of stock of 50 cents each

OPERATING RESULTS

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Tons milled 000	146	150	296
Yield—g/t	880	815	847
Production—kg	12 832	12 225	25 057
Cost—R/square metres mined	7 422	7 502	7 462
R/ton milled	289.15	244.00	266.58
R/kg produced	44.17	43.31	43.74
R/kg produced	5 956	5 896	5 926

JOINT METALLURGICAL SCHEME

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Tons 000	471	475	946
Head grade	0.27	0.28	0.28
Yield—g/t	0.16	0.16	0.16
Production—kg	152	152	304
Cost—R/square metres mined	7 422	7 502	7 462
R/ton milled	7 422	7 502	7 462
R/kg produced	7 422	7 502	7 462

PRICE RECEIVED ON SALES

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
Gold—R/oz	11 780	13 225	12 502
Costs	387	425	812

FINANCIAL RESULTS

	Quarter ended March 1982	Quarter ended Dec 1981	Six months ended March 1982
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Deduct:

Profit before taxation and	
State's share of profit.	48
Provision for taxation and State's	

Versatile Funny Spring to flow again

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

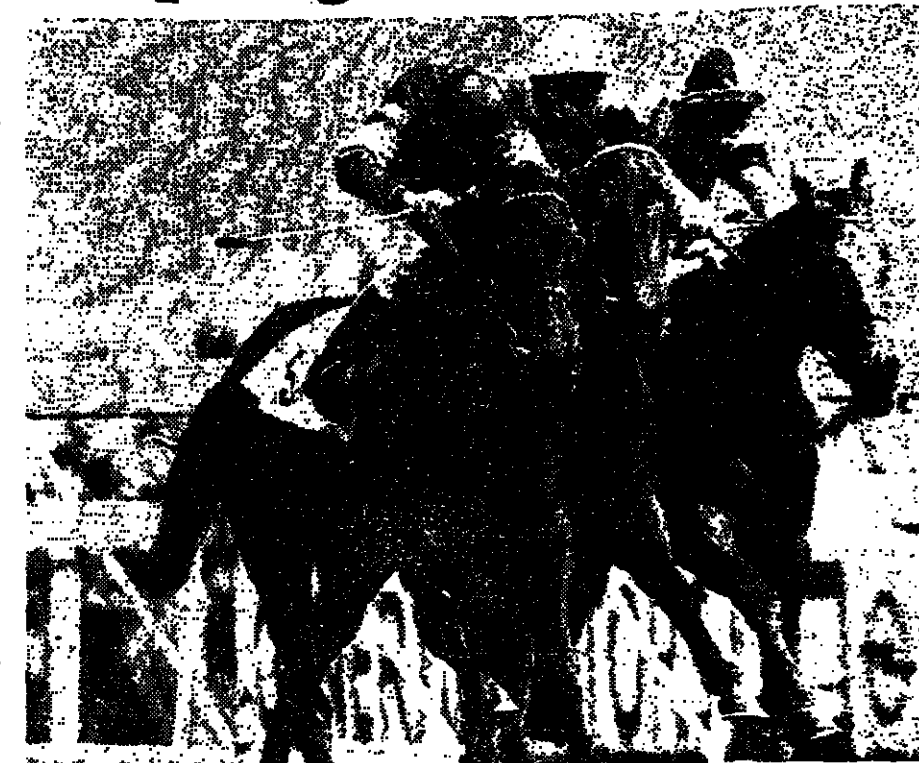
Sandown Park reopens today to the understandable pleasure of those who have become bored with tears with going to its sister course, Kempton Park, where the transferred meeting has been held for the past 10 months. During that time the improvements to the course, the drainage, the stands, and the stable lads' hostel, have been carried out at a cost of about £250,000.

To mark the occasion, today has been called the Major General Sir Randle Peckham Memorial Day. It has been named after one of the turf's greatest administrators. Most of the races have been sponsored in aid of a charity particularly dear to his heart, the stable lads' welfare trust.

The Sandown Cup has been sponsored by the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, and it should be won by Funny Spring, who has returned to Luca Cumani's yard after his absence of the winter jumping with Gavin Pritchard-Gordon.

Pritchard-Gordon won two hurdle races with Funny Spring, and he also cashed in on the horse's fitness at Kempton over Easter when he won the Rosebery Stakes despite Willie Carson putting him over the weight. Carson has the mount on Funny Spring again today and he can also look forward to another good ride on Believer in the Childwick Bay Maiden Fillies Stakes.

By the 1969 Derby winner, Stakeney, Believer ran a race of exceptional form on her only appearance as a two-year-old. She should be seen to even better advantage now that she is running over a mile and a quarter, but in this instance I



Stood down: Mary Mitsu relegated after beating Clare Island at Epsom

from the finish when Carson pulled his whip through from his left hand to his right and gave Mary Mitsu one crack. The filly immediately hung to her left with the canter of course and gave Clare Island a bump. The result was not only unbalanced but also the meat in the sandwich between Mary Mitsu and Rose of Montserrat was a film of the race I believe the incident would never have occurred had Carson kept his whip in his left hand.

This was the second time in five years that a filly trained by Henry Cecil has been disqualified as a result of a disqualification. It was also the first time that a filly trained by Henry Cecil has been disqualified as a result of a disqualification. It was also the first time that a filly trained by Henry Cecil has been disqualified as a result of a disqualification.

Sandown Park

Tote Double: 3.5 and 4.10 Treble: 2.30, 3.35 and 4.45 (Television (TV) 2.30, 3.35 and 3.35 races)

2.00 CHIMPAN TURF-CARE STAKES (Handicap: £2,681; 1¼m) (15 runners)

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| 102 | 223410 | CHIMPAN (H) (D) J. Dunlop 5-11 | 10 | 223410 | CHIMPAN (H) (D) J. Dunlop 5-11 |
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